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Districts seek fix for \$850M in deficits

Teachers cut, schools closed across region as public education leaders face tough choices

By Michael Garcia
and Elizabeth Sander
STAFF WRITERS

Staring down a \$100 million deficit budget, even after deciding to close three campuses in February, Aldine ISD trustees have a difficult decision to make this week.

Voting on Aldine ISD's budget on Monday will involve a 10% cut to the district's budget, including 100 employees. The proposed budget comes after the board voted to close Conley, Sammons and Gray elementaries earlier this year. And more campuses may need to be closed before the 2025-2026 year to remain afloat.

"In recent years, Aldine ISD has had to face some tough realities: student enrollment declines, a lack of affordable housing throughout the community, declining birth rates, and decreased funding from the state," district spokesperson Sylvia Samuell wrote.

The district on the north side of Houston is led by well-known Superintendent La'Tonya Goffney, and is praised for innova-

Districts continues on A5



Aldine ISD already closed three elementaries earlier this year, and more campuses may be on the chopping block.

Jon Shapley/
Staff file photo



Mayor John Whitmire walks with Tammy Rodriguez as they take a tour last week of High Star Drive.

Photos by Brett Coomer/Staff photographer

Whitmire promises fixes for transportation in Gulfton

But some worry mayor will derail projects, such as more bus service

By Dug Begley
STAFF WRITER

For Tee Orizu, the path of least resistance between her Gulfton apartment near Burnett Bayland Park and a Legacy Community Health clinic — along broken sidewalks scorched by the sun and across a heavily trafficked road with drivers darting from all directions — is simply reality.

For the people hoping to make improvements in Gulfton, Orizu's story presents a variety of problems that can be solved only by taking an honest look at who lives in the neighborhood



Women walk along a bike lane on High Star near a Legacy Community Health clinic. Whitmire has criticized the lane.

and what they say they need.

"I have been here for a long time, and I can tell you, for a lot of that, no one was listening," said Tammy Rodriguez, who has been active in the community for more than two decades. "They were saying what Gulfton needed. ... They were not asking people what they wanted."

Charging into the debate is Mayor John Whitmire, who has blasted some recent changes by the city and others that, he says, impede mobility and harm access to schools and health care services. His rhetoric has

Gulfton continues on A3

Israeli centrist exits war Cabinet

Ex-military leader says Netanyahu has mismanaged effort

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Benny Gantz, a centrist member of Israel's three-man war Cabinet, announced his resignation Sunday, accusing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of mis-



Gantz

managing the war effort and putting his own "political survival" over the country's security needs. The move does not immediately pose a threat to Netanyahu, who still controls a majority coalition in parliament. But the Israeli leader becomes more heavily reliant on far-right allies who oppose the latest U.S.-backed cease-fire proposal and want to press ahead with the war against Hamas.

"Unfortunately, Netanyahu is preventing us from achieving true victory, which is the justification for the painful and ongoing price," Gantz said. He added that Netanyahu was "making empty promises" and that the country needs to take a different direction, as he expects the fighting to continue for years.

The popular former military chief joined Netanyahu's government shortly after the Oct. 7 Hamas attack in a show of unity. His presence also boosted Israel's credibility with its international partners. Gantz has good working relations with U.S. officials.

Gantz had said he would leave the government by this past Saturday if Netanyahu did not formulate a new plan for postwar Gaza.

He stepped a planned news

Israel continues on A6

H-E-B chair slowed political spending amid voucher fight

By Edward McKinley
AUSTIN BUREAU

Charles Butt, the billionaire H-E-B chairman, has spent hundreds of millions of dollars over decades bolstering public education in Texas.

But this year, in a political fight over private school vouchers that public schools fear could decimate their budgets, Butt wound down his political

spending.

Gov. Greg Abbott and pro-voucher groups pumped a record-breaking \$15 million into flipping state House seats ahead of the March primaries, while the grocery giant's political action committee spent just under \$2 million supporting GOP incumbents.

After bruising defeats in the first round, Butt spent even less in May's runoffs, in which four

more pro-voucher candidates won, securing a presumed majority in the House to pass Abbott's plan next year to divert taxpayer dollars to private and religious schools.

The week before the defeats, Butt's political committee reported that it had left more than \$10 million unspent in its account.

The results have left some who have fought voucher

posals for years wondering whether the retreat is a sign that the state's 86-year-old champion for schools is no longer as committed to the fight.

Beyond vouchers, the rightward lurch of the Texas House following this election cycle could hamstring the political influence of public school leaders and their allied groups. And it comes ahead of a pivotal legislative session, as Abbott has held

up bipartisan proposals to increase public education spending, raise teacher pay and reform special education in his bid to get vouchers approved.

Bill Miller, a founder at the HillCo Partners lobbying firm who represents H-E-B and Butt's education group Raise Your Hand Texas, said Butt couldn't keep up with "unprecedented" contributions on the

Vouchers continues on A6



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When is hurricane season worst here?

By Justin Ballard
NEWSROOM METEOROLOGIST

June 1 marked the official start to the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, which runs through Nov. 30. The Atlantic basin is quiet now, but early season outlooks suggest this year could be a historic one. Many Houston residents are already wondering when the worst of the season is on average, hoping to get some sort of idea for what could be to come. Obviously, it's hard to say whether a tropical storm or hurricane will make landfall on the Texas Gulf Coast this season. Any landfall projections you may come across on social media are either standing on shaky science or outright out for clicks. But what is certain is all of Southeast Texas needs to prepare for whatever the season may bring.

Big question

A question on many people's minds is: "When is hurricane season the worst?" The answer to that can vary tremendously by how you're defining



Staff file photo

A Coast Guard helicopter flies over the Bolivar Peninsula as Hurricane Ike approached the Gulf Coast on Sept. 12, 2008.

what "the worst" is. For the sake of simplicity, let's first analyze when major hurricanes occur along the upper Texas Gulf Coast. As a reminder, a major hurricane is one with winds of 111 mph or higher. The most recent named major hurricane that made landfall along the upper Texas Gulf Coast was Hurricane Alicia in 1983. That's

certainly not to say plenty of named major hurricanes haven't affected Houston — just look at Harvey in 2017 or Rita in 2005. But neither of those hurricanes made landfall directly on the Houston-Galveston area coastline. This underscores the importance of looking not only at where a hurricane may track but also at

how any Gulf hurricane near the Texas coast can have far-reaching effects. Going back to before 1953 when hurricanes first began getting names, five major hurricanes have made landfall in Southeast Texas since the 1850s, including the devastating 1900 Galveston hurricane. Of six named major hurricanes, five came ashore during the months of August or September. Of those five, four major hurricanes came ashore between Aug. 15 and Sept. 15. Let's also keep in mind that a major hurricane is not the sole definition of a memorable or life-changing hurricane. Hurricane Ike in 2008 was 1 mph shy of being classified a Category 3 hurricane when it made landfall along the Bolivar Peninsula in mid-September. Ike is responsible for the deaths of at least 100 people and caused damage worth \$5 billion.

Early tropical storms

It doesn't take a hurricane to make a lasting impression on a community. Tropical storms and tropical depressions both can leave

their mark and make the hurricane season a memorable one. Tropical Storm Allison's slow movement, with rounds of extremely heavy rainfall, resulted in widespread rain totals of 15 to 25 inches across Harris County. Even greater rain totals were recorded on the east side of Houston and in eastern Harris County. The highest rain total reached in excess of 38 inches, much of which fell over 12 hours between June 8 and 9, 2001. Damage estimates in the Houston area alone topped \$4 billion, with more than 14,000 homes destroyed. Allison was directly attributed to the deaths of 23 people in Texas.

Get prepared now
What can you do now? Prepare your disaster plan. Take an hour or two to document what you and your family will do in the event a hurricane approaches the Houston area. Share that plan with friends, neighbors, and extended family so they know where you might be in case communication lines are down.

Residents seek more help from FEMA at town hall, fair

By Peter Warren
STAFF WRITER

Houstonians and community activists criticized the Federal Emergency Management Agency for its job helping people recover from last month's storm during a Saturday town hall and resource fair in Houston's Fifth Ward. At one point during the town hall, Texas Organizing Project member Synnachia McQueen Jr. outlined a list of four demands to FEMA in hopes of improving the agency's response. The organization wants more in-person application assistance sites, more assistance for non-English speakers, better advertising for FEMA's rental assistance programs and a simplified appeals process. "We know that our communities are often hit the worst and hardest and take the longest to recover," said Sofia Lopez, another Texas Organizing Project member. "The purpose of this town hall is not to beat up on FEMA but it's to work together to make sure that the infrastructure exists for when big storms come, we know that people aren't left behind." Saturday's event at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church was set up for people to connect with organizations providing assistance, including FEMA. Harris County Precinct 2



Raquel Natalicchio/Staff photographer

Community members affected by May's extreme weather that left thousands without power gather to receive information and resources during a town hall and resource fair on Saturday.

Commissioner Adrian Garcia told the media his office heard FEMA rejected many people after they submitted claims in its online portal. "Today's an opportunity to help those folks who may have inadvertently been rejected to have an opportunity to have their applications corrected and be accepted by FEMA," Garcia said. "We're grateful that FEMA

is willing to listen." A FEMA representative said people can be denied for many reasons, such as not providing an insurance settlement or evidence that the home is someone's primary residence. But it is possible to get approved after adding this information, which people can do with in-person appointments or on the phone. In addition to FEMA, other

organizations attended the fair, including the Small Business Administration; the Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience; and the Bayou City Waterkeeper. The Power Up Harris County Coalition — which includes the Texas Organizing Project, Workers Defense Project and AFL-CIO, among other groups — sponsored the event.

"The impact is really big," said Lizeth Chacón, the executive director for Workers Defense. "The point of today is to be in community together across the different organizations working here in Houston and to ensure that people get connected to vital resources that they're going to need in order to make it in the upcoming months. Deloris Thomas, a Fifth Ward resident, said she is still trying to cope with and clean up from the storms last month, which tore off part of the roof of her house. She attended the event hoping to learn more about solutions not just for herself and her situation but also for the community in general. "Just driving around the area, it's depressing," Thomas said. Pleasant Hill Baptist Church pastor Harvey Clemons Jr. noted recovering from the derecho has been a different beast. For hurricanes, most people are alerted days ahead of the storm to allow them to prepare for what might be coming. The suddenness of the May 16 storm meant the lead-in time to prepare wasn't there. "This was a different kind of trauma to our community," Clemons said. "This hit us unexpectedly, and because of that the impact of recovery is as difficult as the impact of coming from a hurricane."

Man who used bear spray, whip on police in Jan. 6 riot gets 6 years

By John Wayne Ferguson
STAFF WRITER

A Houston man who pleaded guilty to attacking police during the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection in Washington, D.C., using bear spray and a metal whip against officers was sentenced to spend more than six years in federal prison. Andrew Taake, 35, received one of the harshest sentences so far among the 20 Houston-area people who have been charged for their participation in the riot. Taake in December pleaded guilty to one count of assaulting, resisting or impeding certain officers using a dangerous weapon, a felony. Taake brought bear spray and a metal whip to the "Stop the Steal" rally, and was among the first people to force their way onto the Capitol grounds, ac-



Taake

cording to prosecutors. He was accused of spraying Metropolitan Police officers with the bear spray "engulfing the officers in the cloud of orange chemicals." He was accused of spraying police at least four times, throwing a water bottle at officers and hitting an officer in the arm with his metal whip. He then entered the Capitol building and spent about 20 minutes inside, according to the Justice Department. According to prosecutors, Taake was turned in to authorities by a woman he was chatting with on Bumble, a dating app. Taake messaged a woman on Jan. 6, saying he had been "pepper sprayed, tear gassed, had flash bangs thrown at me, and

hit with batons for peacefully standing there," and then sent a photo of himself to the woman. She reported to authorities on Jan. 9. In interviews with HuffPost reporter Ryan Reilly, the woman who turned in Taake said she sought out people on the dating app she believed took part in the riot and ended up reporting three people. In a victim impact statement written to the court, one of the officers whom Taake assaulted said he was hit in the face by the bear spray. "I was immediately blinded," Metropolitan Police Office Nathaniel Tate wrote. "It was the most pain I've ever experienced. It was like living death. It took my breath away. It left me entirely vulnerable." Tate called the defense of the Capitol "one of the hardest

things I have faced in my life" and wrote he still has trouble sleeping because of the memories of the attack. He wrote that he forgave Taake but wanted him held accountable. Prosecutors had sought a sentence of 78 months, according to court records. U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols sentenced Taake to 74 months in prison, to be followed by 36 months of supervised release. He also was ordered to pay \$2,000 in restitution. Taake's defense attorney couldn't immediately be reached for comment. Taake was arrested in July 2021 and was ordered held without bail, according to federal court records. At the day of his official sentencing, he'd already spent about 34 months in prison. In announcing Taake's sentence, prosecutors said he had

traveled to Washington while on pretrial release for a charge of online solicitation of a minor in Texas. Taake was charged with the misdemeanor in 2016, according to Harris County Court records. The charge was still active as of Thursday, according to court records. Since Jan. 6, more than 1,400 people have been charged with crimes related to the riot. That number includes at least 20 people from Harris County or surrounding counties. Of the local people who have been convicted related to Jan. 6, only one person has received a lengthier sentence than Taake. Shane Jenkins, of Houston, was sentenced to seven years in prison after being convicted of assaulting an officer, destruction of government property, five other felonies and two misdemeanors.

Have wage increases outpaced inflation under Biden?

By Louis Jacobson
POLITIFACT

The claim: Americans have consistently expressed concern about increased living costs, especially after inflation peaked at a four-decade high of about 9% in summer 2022. Although the year-over-year inflation rate has eased to about 3%, it's unsurprising that inflation came up when Time magazine interviewed President Joe Biden for a June 4 story.

In the interview transcript, Time staff said, "Cumulative inflation means prices are up nearly 20% since you took office and wage increases have not kept pace."

Biden replied, "Wage increases have exceeded what the cost of inflation, which you're talking about as the prices that were pre-COVID prices."

He continued, "Pre-COVID prices are not the same as whether or not they — you have ... corporate America ripping off the public now. You have everything from shrinkflation to what's going on in terms of the way in which they're artificially moving significantly to increase their ... profits. That's not the same as inflation. That's price gouging."

PolitiFact ruling: Half true. Using the standard measurements that compare inflation and wages, and the time frame the interviewer used — Biden's entire presidency, which started in January 2021 — Biden is incorrect about wages and inflation. Inflation has outpaced wages during that time period.

However, wages have outpaced inflation when compared with the past one- and two-year periods, and with their prepandemic levels — the last data available before a few years in which the pandemic's effects wreaked havoc on economic statistics.

POLITIFACT



ABOUT POLITIFACT

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Discussion

To check Biden's statement, we looked at how two standard federal statistics have tracked in recent years: The consumer price index, a monthly price inflation gauge for a fixed basket of goods, and average hourly earnings for all private employees, a monthly measurement of how worker pay changes.

When we contacted the White House for comment, they pointed us to an October 2023 analysis by the Brookings Institution, a Washington, D.C., think tank, that compared the prepandemic 2019 fourth quarter with the 2023 second quarter, and an alternative measure calculated by a Democratic congressional committee, both of which found wages outpacing inflation.

Since Biden took office in January 2021, inflation has increased 19.3% while wages have risen 16.1%.



Evan Vucci/Associated Press

Although Joe Biden was not president when the pandemic began, the pandemic's rapid and severe economic impacts affected economic statistics well into his presidency.

Examining other time frames after Biden took office shows that wages outpaced inflation.

In the year-over-year period from April 2023 to April 2024, wages have risen 3.9%, while inflation increased 3.4%.

It's the same story from April 2022 to April 2024. Although inflation initially outpaced wages, wages caught up, ultimately rising 8.8% compared with inflation at 8.5%.

What we found is similar to what Time published in its fact-check of Biden's interview. Time noted that wages topped inflation for the past 12 months, "but cumulative inflation has outpaced wage growth for most of the Biden presidency."

Although Biden was not president when the pandemic began, the pandemic's rapid and severe economic impacts affected economic statistics well into his presidency. Economists say

there's value in looking at prepandemic wage and inflation levels, because they compare the present with what existed before the upheaval.

When comparing the most recent data available, from April 2024, with February 2020, the last full month before the pandemic's onset, consumers are better off now in terms of wages and inflation. (Of this time period, about a year was under President Donald Trump's leadership, while a little more than three years was under Biden's.)

Wages have risen by 21.7% since February 2020, compared with a 20.8% rise in inflation.

The White House noted an October 2023 analysis by the Brookings Institution that found wages outpacing inflation using several different metrics from the prepandemic 2019 fourth quarter to the 2023 second quarter, mirroring what we

found for a similar time frame in our prepandemic analysis.

The White House also pointed to an analysis by the Democratic staff of Congress' Joint Economic Committee that found that per capita wages increased by nearly \$15,000 from January 2021 to October 2023, compared with an increase in prices of about \$11,400. It's the only other example we found of a comparison that began in January 2021, when Biden took office.

The main difference between the standard method, which we used, and the committee's method is the use of "consumer units" as a benchmark. The standard method counts employed individuals, while consumer units, tabulated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, include households, unmarried couples living together and individuals.

GULFTON

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drawn detractors, with critics lambasting him for suggesting Gulfton residents did not feel welcome at the Galleria.

"What hurt me about that is we are making generalizations (about) a community that is extremely diverse," said District J Council Member Edward Pollard, who represents the area. "You're just hearing something that is very disheartening when we need to be listening."

Despite the fracas, Whitmire said his aim is to marshal resources — whether via city agencies or elsewhere — to improve the neighborhood.

"This area will be provided for," Whitmire said during a walk along High Star Drive, which has drawn his ire for a bike lane that city officials installed prior to his election last year. "We're going to get to work doing this right."

Whitmire's bike lane criticism has led some to worry that he may derail other projects, such as a planned bus rapid transit expansion into Gulfton and additional bike lanes in the community. Pollard, who sparred with Whitmire at a May 29 City Council meeting, said he fears that any reconsideration of both sidewalk and transit plans are ultimately an attempt to delay the rapid transit, which he said the community supports.

"What the community wants is to have a real voice in those projects," Pollard said.

Who speaks for Gulfton?

With so many different opinions and perspectives, the question becomes — who speaks for the community?

Plans for Gulfton are not new. For more than a decade, the area has received attention from Metropolitan Transit Authority, Houston elected officials and community groups. Studies have been conducted, projects designed and completed — and even more are promised for Gulfton, which some consider Houston's Ellis Island for the community's attractiveness to recent immigrants.

The largest of those projects is Metro's planned extension of the Silver Line bus rapid transit south from the transit center near Loop 610 and Westpark Drive. That \$220 million project would add dedicated bus lanes so buses could traverse Westpark, Chimney Rock Road and Gulfton Street to wind through the area,

then follow Hillcroft Street south to Bissonnet Street.

More than 700 comments, with more than one-third provided in Spanish, were gathered last year during a round of public meetings, leading to the design advancing through the process for Federal Transit Administration funding.

Whitmire, however, wants another look. Since taking office, he has responded skeptically to many of the plans and projects that began before his tenure. He insists that they were created after consultants and "special interests" got involved and did not adequately consider the opinions of local residents.

"I don't know who they were listening to, but it wasn't the residents who need to get to health care, who need to get to jobs, who need to get their kids to school," Whitmire said.

At a gathering last Monday at Legacy Community Health clinic in Gulfton, some 30 people whom Whitmire assembled focused on what they considered a good-intentioned but ill-designed bike lane along High Star.

The lane, discussed since at least 2017, has become a source of frustration for many residents, who said its installation was never fully discussed with the community, notably those who manage nearby apartments and say they are the first lines of communication with tenants.

"Not a single person came by to say they were taking away part of the road, so we cannot even get buses," said Rodriguez, who once managed apartments in the area.

Intended or not, the loss of bus service was the outcome. Citing the inability of its buses to drive along High Star and Rookin Street, Metro pulled its buses from the streets in 2021 during construction detours. It changed bus routes permanently in January, removing stops along those streets.

Pulling buses was a major blow to the local Legacy clinic, officials said, as well as the nearby BakerRipley campus and Houston's Southwest Multi-Service Center. All three are destinations for transit users, now forced to walk from Hillcroft or Bellaire Drive to get where they are going.

That was never envisioned when Houston Public Works and the Southwest Houston TIRZ partnered with Connect Community, a nonprofit active in Gulfton, on the proposal. The focus was slowing down speeding drivers on High Star and Rookin, as well as streets east of Hillcroft near



Brett Coomer/Staff photographer

Mayor John Whitmire talks to Azeb Yusuf last week outside a Legacy Community Health clinic on High Star Drive.

Gulfton-area schools, including a crossing where a 4-year-old boy was killed in 2016.

"We made a commitment, a commitment to the family, to make the street safe," said Anne Whitlock, founding director of Connect Community, during a 2021 summary of planned changes.

The redesign aimed to fix the common problem of people speeding along the streets by narrowing the lanes, adding wide areas for bicyclists and pedestrians and including dedicated bus stops.

As construction began in 2021, High Star lost all of its on-street parking to the work and never regained it. That complicated parking for the Legacy clinic, which then spent years pleading with the city for access to the lot of the community center across the street. The clinic was given parking lot access within the last two months.

Before construction began, Whitlock acknowledged that there would be a need to make sure the community was aware of the change, predicting the loss of on-street parking on High Star would be an issue.

"That is where I think a lot of community outreach is going to need to happen," she said.

Diverse interests

Azeb Yusuf is still waiting for that outreach to much of the community.

"Where is the data that people were asked?" asked Yusuf, who emigrated from Ethiopia as a child and now is active with various groups in the Gulfton area. "Who went to the apartments?"

Critics of some of the recent plans said getting buy-in from apartment complexes is crucial, as they are able to communicate

with residents who might be wary of others, as well as make sure non-English speakers are told about the meetings and plans.

Lured by affordable apartments, transit access and nearby services such as the BakerRipley, Legacy Community Health and commercial businesses along Hillcroft, newcomers pour into the area, and many stay close by even when they settle.

Gulfton, perhaps more so than any other part of Houston, needs every type of mobility that can fit. One in eight households in Gulfton does not have access to a car, about double that of the city average. Legacy Community Health, which serves much of the population at its Gulfton location near Hillcroft and High Star, said roughly a quarter of its clients are "transportation insecure," meaning they lack a reliable way to travel to appointments.

Indeed, residents use multiple forms of transportation to access the clinic. Last Monday, two Cuban women headed from the clinic hailed an Uber for the \$9 trip back to an apartment near Plaza Americas at Interstate 69 and Bellaire Boulevard.

"I can pay \$9," one of the women said in Spanish. "I cannot (afford) a car."

Coleman Broadly, 56, waited for a Route 9 bus at Hillcroft and Westward Street, where there is at least a shelter.

"It makes a difference, but it is still hot," he said, noting he builds in 20 minutes to cool down before starting his second-shift retail job at a gas station in Upper Kirby.

Orizu, 25, is a Nigerian who came to Houston in 2020. When she cannot get a ride to appointments, it is often faster to walk than ride the bus. The roughly 1-mile trek to the Legacy clinic, she

said, is always a walk. But there's little shade in a part of Houston that by many measures is the region's hottest heat island because of all the asphalt.

With her infant daughter Patience cradled in her left arm, Orizu carries an umbrella, which she uses to shield them both from the sun. Held close to her head, she can just barely keep both her daughter and herself under cover.

"I take it everywhere," she said.

'Earning our right to grow'

Delivering relevant transit service means understanding those challenges riders face, as well as providing the service they need, said Metro Chairwoman Elizabeth Brock.

"Revitalizing this area and providing basic services, it is not going to be one thing," she said.

The first order of business, which she said applies to many places Metro serves, is "removing some of these disruptors," such as streets where buses cannot operate or unsheltered bus stops that force riders to wait in the sun.

"How do we incorporate technology?" Brock said. "Can we serve the customer better?"

Those conversations could lead, as soon as this year, to changes to Gulfton-area bus routes or the creation of a curb-to-curb service similar to those Metro deploys in places such as Missouri City and Acres Homes.

Brock has said curb-to-curb and other so-called microtransit, where smaller vehicles deliver specific trips rather than conventional bus routes, is a part of Metro's future. They also are likely to become part of a broader Gulfton plan centered on the bus rapid transit project.

"We feel we have a very friendly administration that will work with us," she said. "There are things we can do now that show we are earning our right to grow."

That growth, at least in Gulfton, is all but inevitable as more people move to the area, as well as farther west into Sharpstown and south to Brays Bayou.

Whitmire said that is going to take city resources, Harris County resources and likely that of federal officials, who have committed to sidewalk and transit projects.

"Some component" of rapid transit is likely, he said.

"I think we get bogged down when we talk about what it is," he said. "It needs to be what the residents want. ... I am going to get in front of it."

NATION & WORLD

Salute to U.S. war dead ends Biden trip

By Chris Megerian and Zeke Miller
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELLEAU, France — President Joe Biden closed out his trip to France by paying his respects at an American military cemetery that Donald Trump notably skipped when he was president, hoping his final stop Sunday helped draw the stakes of the November election in stark relief.

Before returning to the United States, Biden honored America's war dead at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery about an hour outside Paris. He placed a wreath at the cemetery chapel before an expanse of white headstones marking the final resting place of more than 2,200 U.S. soldiers who fought in World War I.

It was a solemn end to five days in which Trump was an unspoken yet unavoidable presence. On the surface, the trip marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day and celebrated the alliance between the United States and France. But during an election year when Trump has called into question fundamental understandings about America's global role, Biden has embraced his Republican predecessor — and would-be successor — as a latent foil.

Every ode to the transatlantic partnership was a reminder that Trump could upend those relationships. Each reference to democracy stood a counterpoint to his rival's efforts to overturn a presidential election. The myriad exhortations to help Ukraine defend itself against Russia created a contrast with Trump's skepticism about providing U.S. assistance.

Biden's paeans to the struggle between democracy and autocracy drew plaudits in Europe, where the prospect of a return to Trump's turbulent reign has sparked no shortage of anxiety. But it remains to be seen how the message will resonate with American voters, as Biden's campaign struggles to connect the dire warnings the Democratic president so often delivers about his rival with people's daily concerns.

The visit to the cemetery served as a moment to underscore the contrast once more.

"It's the same story," Biden said. "America showed up. America showed up to stop the Germans. America showed up to make sure that they did not prevail. And America shows up when we're needed just like our allies show for us."

During a 2018 trip to France, Trump skipped plans to go to the cemetery, a decision that the White House blamed on weather at the time. However, subsequent reports said that Trump told aides he didn't want to go because he viewed the dead soldiers as "suckers" and "losers." Trump has denied the comments, although they were later corroborated by his chief of staff at the time, John Kelly.

Biden ignored a direct question about Trump at the cemetery but said it was important to visit the hallowed ground.

"The idea that I would come to Normandy and not make the short trip here to pay tribute," he added, his voice trailing off as if to express disbelief.

Far-right gains in EU election hobble bloc's biggest leaders



Niall Carson/Associated Press

Votes are counted Sunday in Castlebar, Ireland, for European Union elections. Polls were open for four days in bloc nations.

Macron responds by calling for new vote in France

By Raf Casert, Lorne Cook and Samuel Petrequin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Far-right parties rattled the traditional powers in the European Union and made major gains in parliamentary elections Sunday, dealing an especially humiliating defeat to French President Emmanuel Macron.

On a night where the 27-member bloc palpably shifted to the right, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni more than doubled her seats in the EU parliament. And even if the Alternative for Germany extreme right party was hounded by scandal involving candidates, it still rallied enough seats to sweep past the slumping Social Democrats of Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Sensing a threat from the far right, the Christian Democrats



Aurelien Morissard/Associated Press

French far-right leader Marine Le Pen casts her ballot Sunday in Henin-Beaumont in northern France.

of EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had already shifted further to the right on migration and climate ahead of the elections — and were rewarded by remaining by far the biggest group in the 720-seat European Parliament and de-facto brokers of the ever expanding powers of the legislature.

Undoubtedly, however, the star of the night was the National Rally party of Marine Le Pen, which dominated the French polls to such an extent that Macron immediately dissolved the national parliament and called for new elections. It was a massive political crisis since his party could suffer more losses, hob-

bling the rest of his presidential term that ends in 2027.

Le Pen was delighted to accept the challenge. "We're ready to turn the country around, ready to defend the interests of the French, ready to put an end to mass immigration," she said, echoing the rallying cry of so many far-right leaders in other countries who were celebrating substantial wins.

Her National Rally won over 30%, or about twice as much as Macron's pro-European centrist Renew party.

Macron acknowledged the thud of defeat. "I've heard your message, your concerns, and I won't leave them unanswered," he said.

In Germany, the most populous nation in the 27-member bloc, projections indicated that the AfD overcame a string of scandals involving its top candidate to rise to 16.5%, up from 11% in 2019. In comparison, the combined result for the three parties in the German governing coalition barely topped 30%.

AROUND THE NATION AND WORLD

NEVADA

Trump rally held in sweltering heat

Former President Donald Trump's campaign hired extra medics, loaded up on fans and water bottles and allowed supporters to carry umbrellas to an outdoor rally Sunday in Las Vegas, where temperatures exceeded 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Temperatures in the Southwest have cooled since reaching historic highs late last week but remain above normal for this time of year. Trump's rally was at a park with little shade next to the airport.

"This is a dry heat. This ain't

nothing for Las Vegas people," Nevada GOP Chair Michael McDonald said. "But what it symbolizes for the rest of the United States — we will walk through hell" to elect Trump.

HAITI

New PM hospitalized, does not share reason

Haiti's newly selected Prime Minister Garry Conille was discharged from a hospital Sunday after spending a night in treatment for an undisclosed condition.

In a video published on YouTube, Conille said he felt well and was "ready" to continue to help steer the country out of its current security crisis by forming a government that will also prioritize issues like health

care.

Conille arrived in Haiti on June 1 after a transitional council selected him as the nation's new prime minister. He had been working outside the country as UNICEF's regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The new prime minister has an arduous task ahead of him, having to quell rampant gang violence while helping lift Haiti out of deep poverty.

GREECE

TV presenter's body found on island

The body of missing British TV presenter and author Dr. Michael Mosley was found on a Greek island Sunday morning after a dayslong search, his

family said.

Mosley, who went missing on the island of Symi on Wednesday afternoon, was spotted among rocks on a rugged stretch of coast by a party on a boat that included the local mayor and journalists.

Mosley's wife, Dr. Clare Bailey Mosley, said her husband took the wrong route on a hike and collapsed just short of reaching a marina in a place where his body couldn't easily be seen.

Mosley, 67, was known outside the U.K. for his 2013 book "The Fast Diet," which he co-authored with journalist Mimi Spencer. The book proposed the so-called "5:2 diet," which promised to help people lose weight quickly.

From wire reports

Modi sworn in for rare third term as India's prime minister



Manish Swarup/Associated Press

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi displays a letter from the president of India on Friday in New Delhi. Modi is only the second Indian prime minister to retain power for a third term.

By Sheikh Saaliq
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW DELHI — Narendra Modi was sworn in Sunday for a rare third consecutive term as India's prime minister, relying on his coalition partners after his party failed to win a parliamentary majority in a surprise outcome.

Modi and his Cabinet ministers took the oath of office, administered by President Droupadi Murmu, at India's presidential palace Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

The 73-year-old popular but polarizing leader is only the second Indian prime minister, after Jawaharlal Nehru, to retain

power for a third five-year term.

His Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, which won by landslides in 2014 and 2019, failed to secure a majority to govern on its own in the latest national election. However, Modi's National Democratic Alliance coalition won enough seats to form a government, with him at the helm.

This is the first time the BJP under Modi has needed support from its regional allies to form a government after a decade of commanding the majority in Parliament.

Final election results released Wednesday showed Modi's BJP won 240 seats, well below the 272 needed for a majority. To-

gether, the parties in the NDA coalition secured 293 seats in the 543-member lower house of Parliament.

An avowed Hindu nationalist, the prime minister is considered a champion of the country's Hindu majority, who make up 80% of India's 1.4 billion population. His supporters credit him with rapid economic growth and improving India's global standing since coming to power.

But critics say he's also undermined India's democracy and its status as a secular nation with attacks by Hindu nationalists against the country's minorities, particularly Muslims, and a shrinking space for dissent and free media.

VOUCHERS

From page A1

other side but he would continue to advocate for Texas kids.

“He’s committed to public education — let’s not even call it public — he’s a supporter of education,” said Miller, who responded to requests for comment made to Butt’s various nonprofits and his political group.

“He’s not backing off education,” Miller went on, referencing vouchers, which would give families state dollars to spend on private school tuition and other educational expenses. “They’re going to take the money, and parents are going to take the money and do what they want. But we’re going to be supportive of education, no matter what.”

If ever there was a time for Butt to spend big, it was this spring.

Abbott spent millions campaigning against a group of 21 Texas House Republicans who voted to sink his private school voucher program last fall.

Armed with a \$6 million check from the Pennsylvania billionaire and TikTok investor Jeff Yass, Abbott’s spending was also buoyed by pro-voucher groups such as the AFC Victory Fund, Texas United for a Conservative Majority and the Family Empowerment Coalition.

Butt — whose net worth is approximately \$7.6 billion — has long had good relationships with both Democrats and Republicans: H-E-B is an iconic Texas brand, and lawmakers from both sides of the aisle applauded him for his charitable giving.

But in recent months Butt has come under attack from the far right over his support for Raise Your Hand Texas, a nonprofit he founded in 2006 that has lobbied against school vouchers in the Legislature.



Contributor file photo

A longtime public education champion, Charles Butt gave little to state legislators fighting primary challengers over vouchers.

After the March primaries, several local GOP officials advanced resolutions denouncing Butt for “advocating for policies contrary to the Republican Party of Texas platform,” including accepting food stamps, a key piece of H-E-B’s business. The resolutions were ultimately not approved at the state Republican convention, held in San Antonio — Butt’s hometown.

Miller said Butt was undeterred by the political attacks. But, Miller said Butt faced a hard decision about whether to continue to invest, after seven anti-voucher Republicans lost their March primaries. At the time, Abbott said he was two votes short of the House majority he needed with six key GOP races headed to runoffs.

From March through May, Butt spent just \$56,553 to support runoff candidates, plus another \$250,000 to the Associated Republicans of Texas, which in turn donated to the runoff candidates as well as House Speaker Dade Phelan.

Anti-voucher donors doubled down, pouring in millions more dollars. Abbott’s campaign alone spent \$1.435 million on the runoffs.

“If you have a historical con-

text you can look to, and we certainly evaluate those things, a consideration was given,” Miller said. “It wasn’t like ‘drop them dead,’ but you do have a consideration where the other side was spending the amount of money they were, and the governor was committed, and the money couldn’t be matched.”

Jason Embry, a communications consultant in Austin who previously worked for Republican House leadership, said the amount of outside spending was overwhelming.

“At what point is one person responsible for fighting multiple billionaires who are willing to spend unlimited sums to get full control of the Legislature?” he said in a statement.

“Charles Butt leads one of the most visible and beloved companies in Texas, with many thousands of employees spread across the state,” he added. “Any political action he takes could affect his employees in ways that others don’t have to worry about.”

None of the Republican incumbents who lost last week agreed to requests for comment on Butt’s campaign spending or how it may have affected their races.

Rep. Ernest Bailes, an East Texas Republican and voucher opponent who lost in March to GOP challenger Janis Holt, said the drop in funding was understandable given Butt’s age and the political attacks against him.

“I think a lot of his core beliefs were skewed by those that were on the opposite side of the spectrum and wanted to make him look bad and discredit him because they wanted to win the election,” Bailes said.

Bailes was the top recipient of Butt’s largess during the primaries, taking in \$350,000.

But Abbott, who has made vouchers a signature issue since 2022, gave roughly \$700,000 to Holt, who ultimately won 53% of the vote.

The fight over vouchers comes at a precarious moment for public education advocates. Many of the same proponents of vouchers are also rallying for lawmakers next year to ban cities, counties and school districts from using taxpayer dollars to lobby legislators in Austin. Last year, the Texas Senate passed its own policy, although it did not receive a vote in the Texas House.

John Colyandro, a pro-voucher lobbyist who previously served as Abbott’s policy director, said the Venn diagram of legislators who back school vouchers and those who support a ban on “taxpayer-funded lobbying” is virtually a circle. Although not tied together directly, “there’s a common philosophy between those two issues,” he said, equating the lobbying as “antithetical to limited free government.”

If public lobbying were to end, school districts would likely have to rely more on groups like Raise Your Hand to advocate on their behalf to the Legislature.

Last year at the Capitol, Raise Your Hand lobbied heavily against voucher programs, warning that they would strip

away desperately needed funds from Texas public schools. That’s because school districts’ state funding is determined by attendance, meaning they stand to lose funding if students use vouchers to leave for private schools. State officials estimated last year that about 42,000 students would use vouchers to leave public schools by 2028.

Shortly before last week’s runoff election, Raise Your Hand announced its leader, Michelle Smith, would be leaving “to pursue new leadership opportunities as a public education advocate.”

The departure “doesn’t change our day-to-day work or focus on advancing good public policy for the 5.5 million public school students,” Bob Popinski, the group’s senior director of policy, said in a written statement to Hearst Newspapers.

Voucher programs in other states have led to “legitimate red flags that Texas elected officials must take seriously,” he said. In addition to opposing vouchers, he said, the group advocated last year for increased school funding, teacher workforce initiatives and standardized testing reform.

If a ban on publicly funded lobbying is passed next year and signed into law, it would only increase the importance of privately funded education advocacy groups like Raise Your Hand, said H.D. Chambers, executive director of the Texas School Alliance, which advocates for public education.

“They’re going to be relied upon even more,” Chambers said. “In today’s political environment, the more you’re relied upon, the more the focus is put on you, the more you’re at risk.”

If you take a position contrary to the GOP, he said: “You’ll be vilified. You’ll be cast aside. ... They will censure formally, informally, publicly, privately; they will call you out if you take a position.”

ISRAEL

From page A1

conference Saturday night after four Israeli hostages were dramatically rescued from the Gaza Strip earlier

in the day in Israel’s largest such operation since the eight-month war began.

Gantz called for Israel to hold elections in the fall, and he encouraged the third member of the war

Cabinet, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, to “do the right thing” and resign from the government as well. Gallant has said he would resign if Israel chose to reoccupy Gaza, and he encouraged the

government to make plans for a Palestinian administration.

On Saturday, Netanyahu had urged Gantz not to leave the emergency wartime government.

“This is the time for unity, not for division,” he said in a direct plea to Gantz.

Gantz’s decision to leave is largely “a symbolic move” because of his frustration with Netanyahu, said Gideon Rahat, chairman of the political science department at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He noted it could further increase Netanyahu’s reliance on extremist, right-wing members of his government, led by National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich.

“I think the outside world, especially the United States, is not very happy about it, because they see Gantz and his party as the more responsible people within this government,” Rahat said.

Raid’s toll

Meanwhile, Gaza’s Health Ministry said Sunday that at least 274 Palestinians, including dozens of children, were killed, and hundreds more were wounded, in the Israeli raid Saturday that rescued the four hostages. The Israeli military said its forces came under heavy fire and responded during the complex daytime operation in central Gaza.

The killing of so many Palestinians, in a raid that Israelis celebrated as a stunning success, showed the heavy cost of such operations on top of the already soaring toll of the war, which was ignited by Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack.

The Israeli bombing was “hell,” witness Mohamed al-Habash said. “We saw many fighter jets flying over the area. We saw people fleeing in the streets. Women and children were screaming and crying.”

The operation in Nuseirat, a built-up refugee camp dating to the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, was the largest rescue since Oct. 7, when Hamas and other

militants stormed across the border, killing about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking about 250 hostage.

Israel’s massive offensive has killed over 36,700 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry, which does not differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count. It said 64 children and 57 women were killed in the latest raid and that 153 children and 161 women were among the nearly 700 wounded.

Saturday’s events also affected fragile attempts to deliver aid. The chief of the World Food Program said it suspended distribution around a U.S.-built pier off Gaza because “two of our warehouses, warehouse complex, were rocketed yesterday.” When asked how it happened and whether WFP shares its locations with Israel’s military, Cindy McCain said that they did and “I don’t know. It’s a good question.” It wasn’t clear if she was referring to the rescue operation.

Scenes of chaos

In Gaza, medics described scenes of chaos after the raid. Overwhelmed hospitals were already struggling to treat the wounded from days of heavy Israeli strikes.

“We had the gamut of war wounds, trauma wounds, from amputations to eviscerations to trauma, to TBIs (traumatic brain injuries), fractures and, obviously, big burns,” said Karin Huster of Doctors Without Borders, which works in Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. “Kids completely gray or white from the shock, burnt, screaming for their parents. Many of them are not screaming because they are in shock.”

The Israeli military said it had attacked “threats to our forces in the area” and that a special operations forces officer was killed in the operation. It said rescuers had come under heavy fire, including from gunmen firing rocket-propelled grenades, and that the military responded with heavy force, including from aircraft.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz lashed out at critics of the operation in a post on X, saying that “only Israel’s enemies complained about the casualties of Hamas terrorists and their accomplices.”

Inside Israel, local media have focused heavily on the Israeli toll, the hostages and military efforts with relatively little coverage of the situation for Palestinians inside Gaza.

‘Difficult’ reunion

Israelis continued to celebrate the return of the hostages — Noa Argamani, 26; Almog Meir Jan, 22; Andrey Kozlov, 27; and Shlomi Ziv, 41 — as they reunited with loved ones.

Argamani’s mother, Liora, who has late-stage brain cancer, had released a video pleading to see her. Argamani’s father told Army Radio that the reunion was “very difficult,” as Liora was “just unable to express her feelings and could not say what she was really waiting to say.”

Meir Jan’s aunt, Dina, said his father had died Friday, hours before the operation. “My brother died of grief,” she told Israel’s Kan public broadcaster.

Dr. Itai Pessach at Sheba Hospital said none of the hostages had serious physical injuries. But they have lost friends and family, and staff “have been assisting them in rebuilding the infrastructure of their life,” he told reporters.

About 120 hostages remain in Gaza, with 43 pronounced dead, after about half were released in a weeklong cease-fire in November. Israeli troops have recovered the bodies of at least 16, according to the government. Survivors include about 15 women, two children under 5 and two men in their 80s.

Scores of hostages are believed to be held in densely populated areas or inside Hamas’ labyrinth of tunnels, making rescues complex and risky. A raid in February freed two hostages while leaving 74 Palestinians dead.

Israel’s military has acknowledged that it can’t carry out operations to rescue everyone.

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OPINION

HOUSTON

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EDITORIAL

Mayor, council
are learning to
share power

All eyes were on Mayor John Whitmire when he took office in January to see how gracefully he'd handle a new rule voters approved that forces the city's top executive to share a little power with the little guys in Houston's "strong-mayor" form of government.

The little guys are the City Council members, elected to represent individual districts or the city at large. During previous administrations, they often sat silent in meetings or remained publicly mum on controversial issues for fear of angering all-powerful mayors, many of whom held iron-fisted control over what proposals got on the weekly agenda for a vote and which would never see the light of day.

In November, voters overwhelmingly mandated some power sharing: the Prop A charter amendment that lets three or more council members get an item on the agenda for a vote.

still doesn't believe that voters intended an extra layer of bureaucracy to delay votes on Prop A items, which, presumably have already been vetted by the three or more council members who supported putting them on the agenda.

We think he's wrong. Voters passed Prop A for the same reason this editorial board supported it: to impose some needed checks and balances on city government. Why require those checks on the mayor but not on council members? It only makes sense that, generally, each proposed ordinance gets some preliminary vetting in committee before the full council votes on it.

That kind of vetting is what Whitmire says City Hall needs more of, for all proposed ordinances — whether they have his blessing or not.

He told us his goal in creating the Prop A committee wasn't to mothball

Checks and
balances
needed at
City Hall —
for everyone

Would Whitmire respect the will of the voters or try to put a lid on Prop A?

Whatever he did, there were bound to be some bumps in the road as the new mayor navigated the landscape with a council that included six new members. Few expected the first test case of Prop A to be an ordinance dealing with actual speed bumps.

In April, Council Member Edward Pollard presented an ordinance, co-signed by four council colleagues, making it easier for neighborhoods to install speed bumps, or cushions, as they're apparently now called. Pollard wanted to scrap the old practice of folding individual requests for speed cushions into larger "installation plans" that often ended up too costly for council members to cover with district service funds. Pollard's proposal would allow speed cushion projects to move forward even with limited funding, as long as the city deems them to be located in "priority" areas.

In a city with hundreds of traffic-related deaths each year, an ordinance that gets drivers to slow down might seem a no-brainer.

But instead of the up-or-down vote Pollard expected, his proposal got diverted to a newly formed Proposition A Committee where it could be vetted first.

Pollard wasn't happy. He aired his frustrations at a council meeting, arguing the new power that voters bestowed on council members through Prop A "was not meant for committee hearings." He rewrote the speed cushion ordinance to ensure it was legally compliant and incorporated input from the Public Works department, but still, the proposal languished for weeks.

Questions swirled: Was Whitmire trying to kill it? Did he send the ordinance over a Speed Bump of No Return? Would he do the same to other proposals he didn't like?

It wasn't clear. Then on Wednesday, the proposal finally came up for a vote in City Council. It sailed through. With unanimous support, including Whitmire's.

Pollard is glad for the outcome but

ordinances he doesn't like but to foster collaboration and public engagement he believes is lacking overall at City Council. In Whitmire's half century in the Texas Legislature, first in the House and then in the Senate, he functioned in a bureaucratic process that some call sausage making in

which committees and subcommittees serve as gatekeepers and watchdogs over legislation. Austin has a lot of problems — and there are abuses in the system. But overall, the structure works.

"If you look at the (City Council) committee system, members don't go to the hearings, the public can't really come and give input, it's mostly a department director making comments," Whitmire said. "I just am a product of committee hearings in the Legislature, where you hear pros and cons, and you get expert witnesses, you put a fiscal note on an item. And if it doesn't have support, it doesn't come out of committee."

Such bureaucracy — and even the practice of attending committee meetings regularly — may have seemed a waste of time at City Hall since the strong mayor drove the agenda. Now that council members have a real seat at the table — as opposed to just warming the bench — more structure and oversight are needed.

Committees, of course, should abide by firm rules and deadlines. That includes the new Prop A committee, which next meets on July 23. Whitmire told us he supports establishing a rule where a certain number of members can vote an ordinance out of the committee to ensure it doesn't become a de facto legislative graveyard. That's a good start, but there should also be a time limit for ordinances to get a committee hearing, to ensure that common-sense proposals such as Pollard's move along swiftly.

We'll keep watching to see how Whitmire functions in this strange new "strong-mayor-asterisk" form of government. For now, we don't think there's anything imperious about him adding a layer of defense against harmful policy. With shared power, it would seem, comes shared accountability.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Gregory Bull/Associated Press
Sergio Franco, of Ecuador, holds his daughter as he waits to apply for asylum last week near Dulzura, Calif.

Go home, huddled masses

Regarding "Biden orders immigrants caught illegally crossing border to be immediately sent home," (June 4): I am sitting here, reading your headlines and smirking: President Joe Biden's action moves to limit asylum seekers? The executive order kicks in only when migrants crossing the border illegally exceed 2,500 people a day. Allowing 2,500 migrants to cross illegally a day equals roughly 72,500 each month. The executive order stops allowing Biden to try to curb illegal crossings when the seven-day average is down to 1,500 for two weeks. That's still a lot of illegal crossings. And he refers to this as limiting? It is just another one of Biden's political ploys for the upcoming election. Now the hard-working citizens in this country are on the hook for paying for these incoming migrants and the ones that have already come here without any documentation.

Biden needs to retire to Delaware and allow someone who truly cares for this country to be voted in.

A. Alaniz, Spring

On June 4, President Joe Biden signed an executive order to temporarily severely restrict processing asylum applicants at the Southern U.S. border when the seven-day average of apprehensions of unauthorized crossings exceeds 2,500.

The United States is a signatory to the United Nations' 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, which expanded the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The Convention was created and became effective after World War II. The United States has always been known and seen as a pioneer, as the protector of human rights. We, the United States, provide people an opportunity to apply for asylum to prove their case. We don't turn our backs on people.

However, Biden is looking to shut the door on exactly those people. The American Civil Liberties Union will file a lawsuit against the Biden administration in response to this executive order and rightly so, as it is in violation of not only international law but of our own statutes and regulations. As an immigration attorney, I am disappointed to see that Biden believes suspending the asylum process at the border would be a wise decision. On the contrary, it will bring much strife, confusion and further backlog to the immigration process.

Biden needs to focus on immigration reform. Instead of creating polices based on fear, his efforts would be better spent gathering votes across the aisles to implement meaningful reform that benefits industries like construction and agriculture that need migrant workers while offering a pathway to residency and citizenship for immigrants.

Rosemary Vega, Houston

Remembering D-Day

Regarding "Why D-Day still matters | Opinion," (June 5): To all of you born after 1950, I hope you appreciate the horrors World War II — the millions who died in the war, and the thousands who were killed on June 6, 1944, D-Day, the day our troops stormed ashore into France. These young boys quickly turned into men, and knew as they were landing that this could be their last day alive. Some were drafted. Many volunteered.

We won both wars because of one word: United. Look at the troops we trained and the military equipment we produced. Were there problems, discussions, disagreements? Yes, but in the end the war came first.

Today we are so divided that it causes border crises, financial strain, crime, broken families and much more. So 80 years after D-Day, find a way to get us back to our real values of being united. Say a prayer for all those who were killed and did not have the opportunities that you have today.

James E. Muecke, Houston

Thanks to the Chronicle editors who have resumed remembrance of D-Day and the lasting importance of that massive military operation. Sixty-two years ago this month I began three years of duty in the 82nd Airborne Division, along with many of those remaining career veterans of that invasion 18 years earlier. What fantastic soldiers, mentors and role models! Our country is now globally in perilous times. Should the worst come to pass, hopefully there will be a sufficient number of those cut from the same bolt of cloth to enable the United States to again prevail.

C.E. Sylvester, Houston

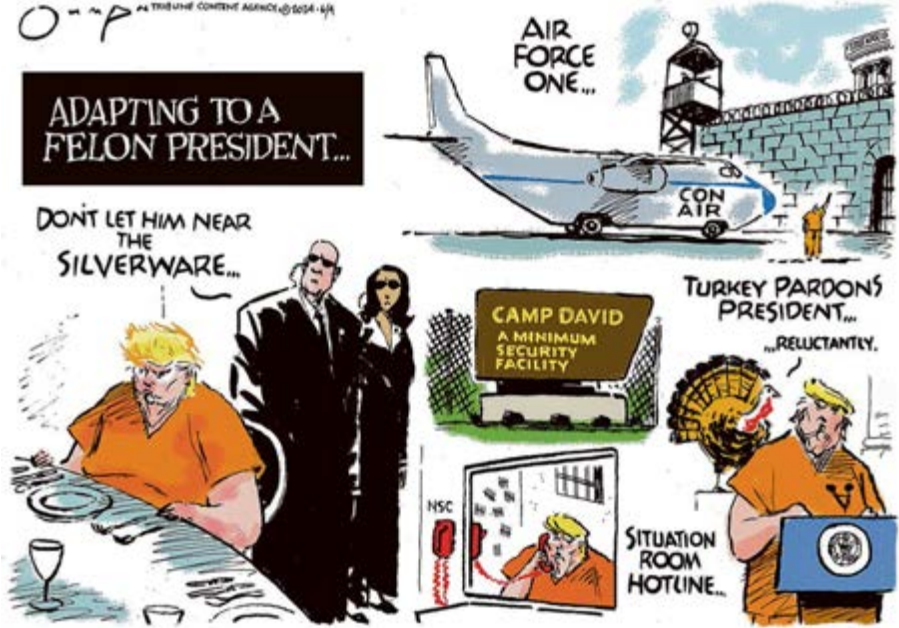
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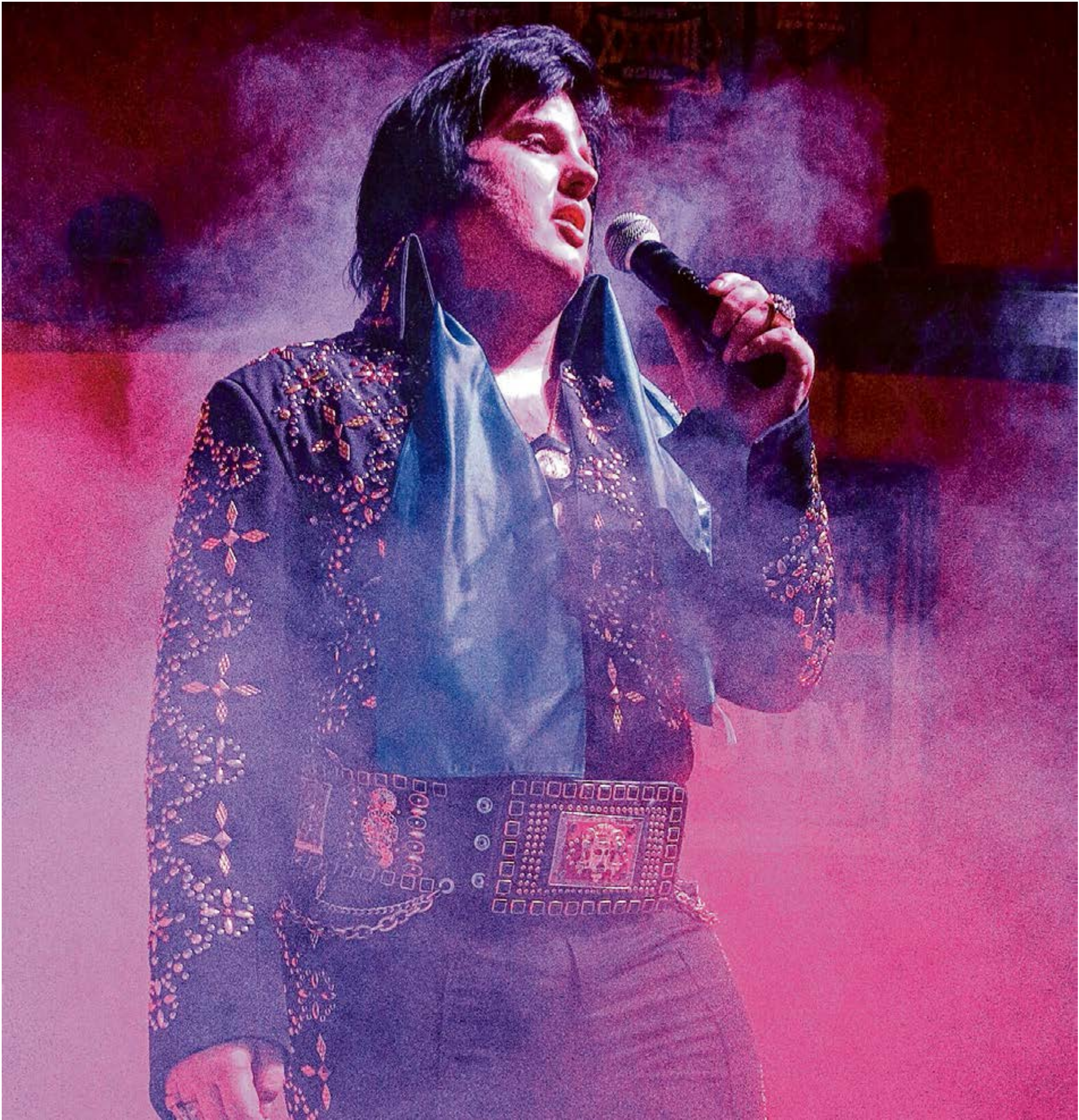
Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children.

Ephesians 5:1

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J. Patric Schneider/Contributor

Jordan Smith performs as Elvis at the Lone Star Saloon in Richmond. Smith, 23, of Conroe hopes to one day become a professional Elvis tribute artist.

Elvis tribute artist brings back singer’s songs, style

By Sondra Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

Jordan Smith’s black pompadour and matching sideburns often cause Conroe residents to stop and do a double take. Smith, 23, of Conroe is an up-and-coming Elvis tribute artist and often “The King’s” style and swagger seep into his everyday life around town. He said the hair and chops are real and people do notice and often they ask for a picture which he is happy to do. In

Conroe resident turned karaoke adventures into labor of love that captures essence of ‘The King’

his day job he is a molding operator making parts for endoscopies and biopsies. But one day he would like to be a professional Elvis tribute artist. “Elvis was a legend,” he said. “He had the voice and the charisma and the looks. He put heart and soul into his performances and you can hear the emotion in his songs.”
Singing Elvis songs at karaoke
Smith was born in the Houston area and moved around before finally settling in Conroe more than a decade ago. He
Elvis continues on A11

‘Dial M for Murder’ brings film-noir sensibility to stage

By Chris Vognar
CORRESPONDENT

As the curtain rises on Alley Theatre’s sleek, stylish production of “Dial M for Murder,” so does a massive red neon sign, running from one end of the stage to the other, advertising the play’s subject and theme. “Murder,” it reads, with a pop art flourish perfect for a work that isn’t just about the act of killing but also talks about it incessantly. Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher from Frederick Knott’s 1952 play, which was famously

turned into a 1954 Alfred Hitchcock film, “Dial M” has bloodshed on the brain, and it is more than happy to share its thoughts. This quality made “Dial M” catnip to Hitchcock, who loved characters who speculated on, joked about, plotted and even committed murder (think “Shadow of a Doubt” and “Strangers on a Train,” among others). But this production is very much its own animal, gorgeously streamlined, spiced with humor and quite cinematic on its own sexy terms. It bursts



Melissa Taylor

Teresa Zimmermann, left, Geena Quintos and Brandon Hearnberger star in “Dial M for Murder.”

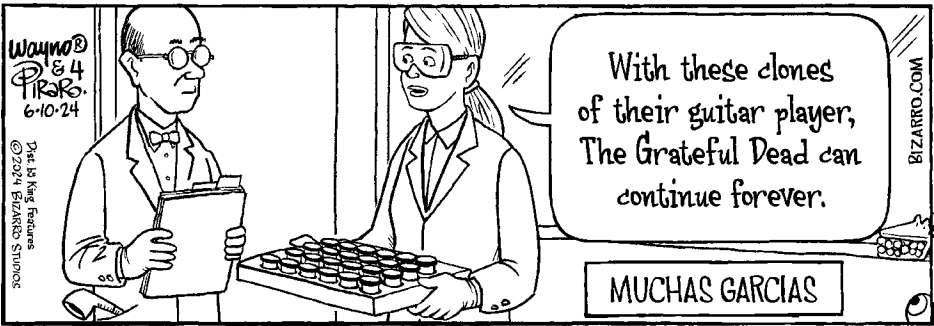
‘DIAL M FOR MURDER’

When: Through June 30
Where: Alley Theatre, 615 Texas
Details: \$51-\$117; alleytheatre.org

with vitality and modernity, even when it perhaps gets a little too ploty for its own good (a trait inherent to the play, not the production). The shape of the story is similar to that of the original. London gold digger Tony Wendice (Brandon Hearnberger)

blackmails a shady ne’er-do-well (Dylan Godwin) to murder his wealthy, unfaithful wife (Teresa Zimmermann). He has an interesting alibi. He works for the publisher of the ex-lover, who happens to be a mystery writer; they’ll be at a local radio station doing an interview when the deed is to be done. Like so many best-laid plans, this one hits some complicated snags. The biggest departure in this new production is a pretty big one. Margot, the murder victim-to-be, *‘Murder’ continues on A11*

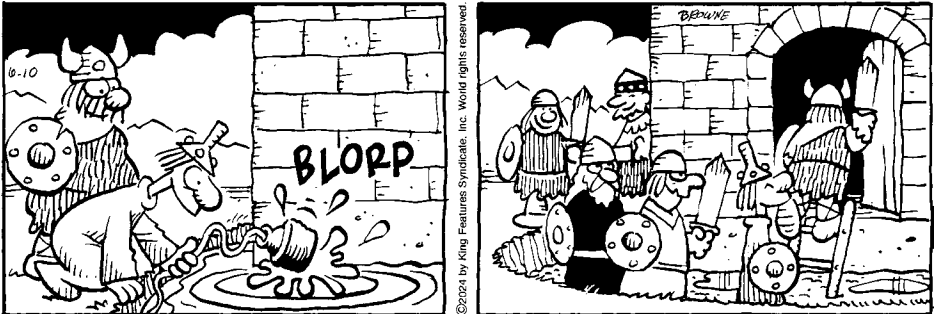
BIZARRO



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



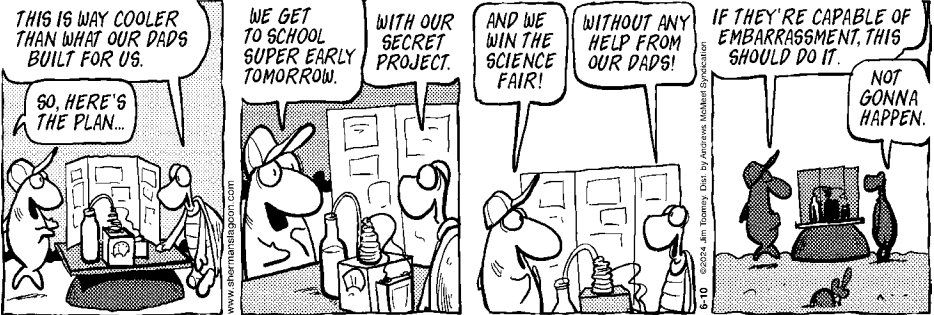
BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!



GARFIELD



SHERMAN'S LAGOON



Dear Abby: My husband's family won't stop asking me when I'm going to quit my job and work for my husband. My mother-in-law worked for my father-in-law at their small business for pretty much her whole career. My husband recently bought his dad's business, which is going really well. I have been ambitious in my own career, and I'm climbing the ladder at my corporate job. I adore my husband and we are both extremely proud of each other's careers. How do I politely say to people that I'm not quitting my job without sounding like an unsupportive wife?

Sure Of My Direction

Dear Sure: Assume that your in-laws mean well when they ask that question. When they inquire, smile and reply that you have no plans to retire, and your husband is in full agreement. Then change the subject.

Dear Abby: A woman I've known and been friends with for 40 years has gradually changed. She has developed some health problems, and whenever she calls me, all she talks about are her ailments and treatments.

When we manage to discuss other things, she turns the subject to her political views, which are different from mine. I try to be noncommittal or change the subject, but it's getting harder and harder. I now cringe when I see her caller ID.

Dear Heloise: Because of my husband's job, we move about every five years. This means I've gotten very good at packing up our belongings. I use gripping shelf liner between dishes, and afterward, I wrap a stack of no more than five plates in packaging material. Then I go onto the next five plates until they are all wrapped. While we use professional movers, there are some things I will not let others pack. I have a few antiques that are special to me, and I always prefer to wrap those myself.

Sara H., St. Louis



Dear Abby

She has other friends, so I don't know why she dumps this stuff on me. I feel our friendship has run its course, and I'd like to end it with as little pain as possible. How can I do that?

Dear Used Up: That shouldn't be too difficult. The next time you talk and she raises the subject of politics, speak up and tell her you not only don't agree but plan to vote for the candidate from the opposite political party. I'll bet she drops you like a hot potato.

Dear Abby: I have been slowly slogging through grad school, one course per semester. And now, after four long years, I'm finally going to graduate. I work in the industry I'm going to school for, and I'd like to invite some of my co-workers out to dinner to celebrate. While I'd love to foot the bill for everyone, I'm not financially able to do so.

How can I tactfully word the invitation so everyone knows I'm inviting them to a dinner, not treating them to one? I don't want anyone to be embarrassed due to assumed expectations.

Dear Ready: A "formal" invitation may not be the way to go. Because this will be a casual no-host affair, there might be less confusion if you simply call your co-workers and explain you'd like to get together if they're interested in celebrating with you.

www.DearAbby.com
Andrews McMeel Syndication

Dear Heloise: A few years ago, I took two dozen cupcakes to a church function and used toothpicks to hold the cling wrap away from the icing. By the time I got there, nearly all the toothpicks had poked through the cling wrap, and the icing was smashed down by the cling wrap. The following year, I decided to use plastic straws to hold up the cling wrap. I cut them to about 3-4 inches in length and gently inserted them into the icing. This method worked beautifully!

Pat W., Port Huron, Michigan

Heloise@heloise.com
King Features Syndicate

ROYAL STARS

Today's Birthday (June 10). You have boundless energy. You're talented and full of ideas. You have strong opinions and don't hesitate to express them. Family and service are your theme this year.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Leo.

Aries (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ This is a fun-loving day! Find ways to socialize with others, because you'll enjoy interactions with someone. Anything to do with the arts will appeal to you. Tonight: Discussions.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) ★★★ Today you'll be happy to hunker down at home and relax among familiar surroundings. You might have a heart-to-heart talk with a female family member. Tonight: Check your possessions.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You feel you have a lot to say. You definitely need to be heard. Your challenge will be finding someone who genuinely wants to hear what you have to say. Tonight: Express yourself.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) ★★★ Financial issues are on your mind today. Right now, it's a low-key time for you, which means you're happy to work alone or from behind the scenes. Tonight: Solitude.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Today things will tend to go your way, even though you might be a bit more emotional than usual. This is also a popular time for you, especially with younger people. Tonight: Friends.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You're high-viz right now. People notice you! You're

also aware of this, which is why today you might look for ways to "hide" or keep a low profile. Tonight: You're noticed.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ An interaction with a female colleague will be important today. It could be an encouragement to travel or study further. It might deal with medical or legal matters. Tonight: Explore!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ People notice you today. Some seem to know personal details about your private life. Meanwhile, you're dealing with taxes, shared property, debt and inheritances. Tonight: Check your finances.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Do something to change your routine today. You need a change of scenery, or a bit of adventure and a chance to learn something new or broaden your universe. Tonight: Cooperate.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ You might feel passionate today, as if something really matters. Perhaps it does. Meanwhile, this is a work hard, party hard day for you. You're keen to accomplish a lot, and yet you're in a playful mood. Tonight: Work.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Today you'll have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. You don't have to be a martyr. Simply be agreeable, accommodating and willing to help. Tonight: Socialize.

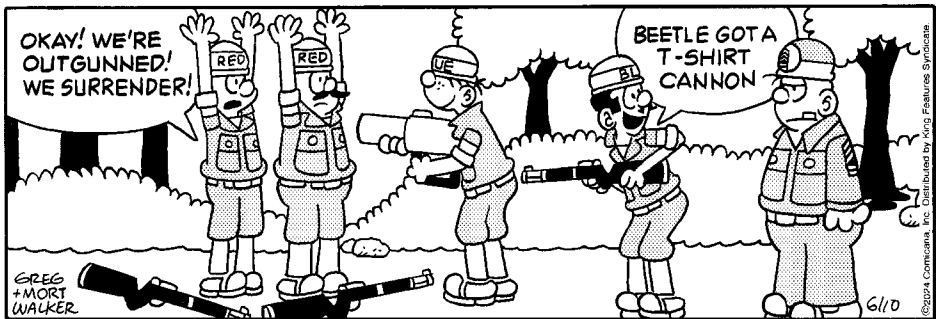
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ You'll have to put someone else's needs or wants before your own today. This is not surprising, because you have a strong focus on home and family now. Tonight: Cocoon.

King Features Syndicate

BLONDIE



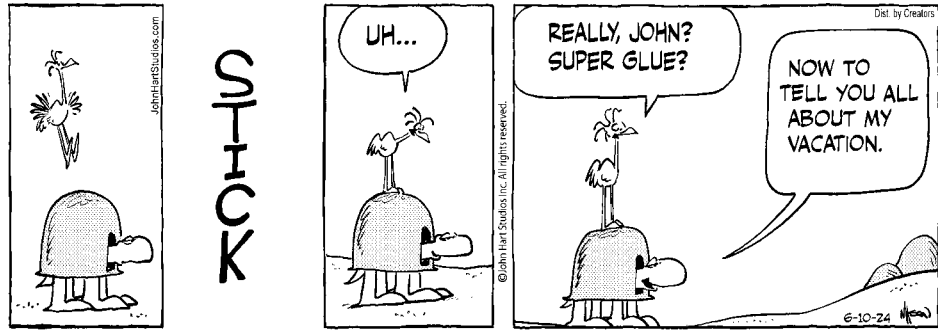
BEETLE BAILEY



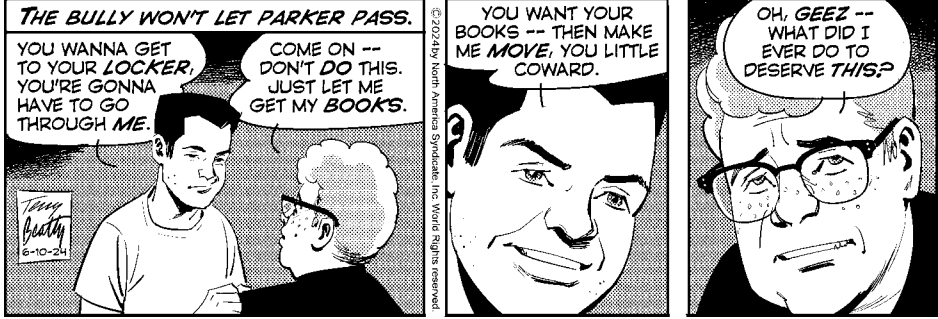
CURTIS



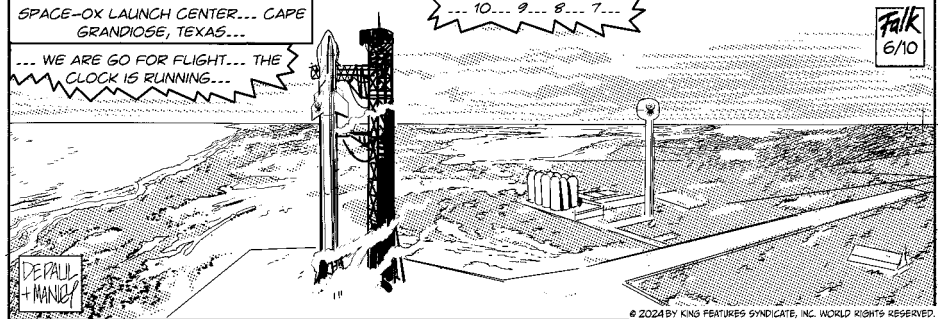
B.C.



REX MORGAN, M.D.



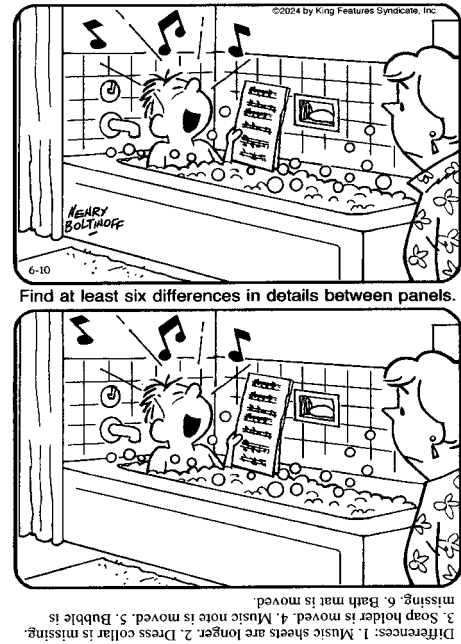
PHANTOM



ARGYLE SWEATER



HOCUS FOCUS



WORD SLEUTH

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Saturday's unlisted clue: **GOLF.**
Monday's unlisted clue hint: **NAIL DRIVER.**

Ham & Eggs

O F C Z W D U R P M J H K H E

C Z E R E T S M A H X A C U S

Q N G G L K J G E C P M O H Z

X V G T R P I N G R U B M A H

R E P M A H L L J H C O M M A

E C L L E H S G G E G N A M M

A Y A W V D A E H G G E H E L

T R N O T L I M A H E G P R E

N L T I U R F G G E K I N G T

E C B Z X W U S R P O M L O J

I G E D B A Y X W U T S Q P G

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ILCAL

NYTGA

PPREEP

DRUYEL

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Ans. here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: ZESTY CONGA SKING MINNOW
Answer: The area of the park that allowed barbecue grills was nicknamed the — SMOKING SECTION

A cartoon showing a man in a hot air balloon basket. A speech bubble from him says, "You can nap later. Look at the beautiful sunrise!" Below him, a woman on the ground looks up and says, "This was worth coming here in the dark." To the left, a small text box says, "Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble". At the bottom, a caption reads: "BEING ABLE TO SEE THE SUNRISE FROM A HOT AIR BALLOON WAS A GOOD REASON TO ---".

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

					7			
			9	1	6	3	4	2
	1			4	3	5	7	
3		5			8		2	
		1	4	3		8		9
2				7	5	1		
5					1	2		
8	2	3		6	4	9		7
	6			2	9			

Difficulty: ★

6/10

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CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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S H F F H M V M G Z N S L P G W G J F G

P N J F G I P G M F H M J H K N G Q I V N

Z G M Q G F F G M F P G H M K N W L F :

W N M M N J F G F H L M .

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals G

Manhattan train depot: Pennie Station.

ANSWER: Fitting name for a pasta restaurant inside a huge

SATURDAY'S ANSWERS

2	4	8	7	3	6	5	9	1
1	9	7	5	4	2	8	6	3
6	5	3	1	9	8	7	2	4
9	7	4	2	1	5	3	8	6
5	2	6	3	8	4	9	1	7
3	8	1	6	7	9	2	4	5
7	1	9	4	2	3	6	5	8
4	6	2	8	5	7	1	3	9
8	3	5	9	6	1	4	7	2

-- BAG

P U N T H O G

C I T A M O L P I D P

H T S B G Y S P E E T

I H A G T H G I N R E V O

S E G A B R A G

S

S	O	A	P		B	A	T	E	D		G	R	U	B
A	R	L	O		E	L	I	S	E		R	E	N	O
U	N	O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L		A	P	E	D
D	O	N	T	M	E	N	T	I	O	N	I	T		
I	T	E	R	A	T	E	S		V	A	N	I	T	Y
			A	C	S		G	E	M		L	O	O	
A	S	T	I		L	I	L	L	E		I	R	K	
W	H	A	T	S	T	O	D	A	Y	S	D	A	T	E
A	O	K		O	H	G	O	D			O	N	E	S
I	R	E		B	I	O		S	S	W				
T	E	A	S	E	R		C	L	E	A	N	E	S	T
		H	A	R	D	S	H	E	L	L	T	A	C	O
A	S	I	F		E	L	I	T	E	E	I	G	H	T
C	U	K	E		Y	E	M	E	N		M	E	M	E
E	V	E	R		E	D	E	M	A		E	R	O	S

What to watch MONDAY

June 10, 2024

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

Harry Wild
Acorn TV; also airs on BBC America at 8 p.m. ■ **Season Finale**

Season 3 concludes with “Dead Man’s Trigger.” Harry (Jane Seymour) and Fergus (Rohan Nedd) head to the Garda station to collect Charlie (Kevin Ryan), Orla (Amy Huberman) and Lola (Rose O’Neill) en route to Glenn (Paul Tylak) and Petra’s (Caoimhe O’Malley) wedding. While there, a despondent man takes the station hostage and demands that they help solve his daughter’s murder. Concerned, because Harry has the wedding ring, Glenn comes to check on them and realizes that he has a *Die Hard* situation on his hands.

Beat the Bridge
Game Show Network, 5 p.m. ■ **New Series**

Cameron Mathison (*General Hospital*) hosts this game show that features an enormous interactive bridge that players attempt to cross by stepping on the right answers to challenging trivia questions. Each step forward puts money in the team’s bank, with bonus money for each successful crossing. However, the team gets to keep the money only if it can “beat the bridge” by returning

A black and white photograph of three men in military uniforms. One man in the foreground is looking towards the camera, while the other two are slightly behind him, one looking down and the other looking to the side. They are all wearing helmets and carrying equipment.

one of its players back across before time expires in an exciting endgame. The series airs weeknights.

MLB Baseball: Baltimore at Tampa Bay
FS1, 5:30 p.m. Live

Gunnar Henderson and the Baltimore Orioles are in Tampa Bay to conclude a four-game set against Randy Arozarena and the Rays.

All American
The CW, 7 p.m.
Spencer (Daniel Ezra) volunteers the Vortex’s help at South Crenshaw High’s production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Six Schizophrenic Brothers
Discovery Channel, beginning at 7 p.m.; also streams on Max ■ **New Series**

This four-part limited docuseries, with all episodes airing back-to-back tonight, follows an all-American family that is torn apart when six of 12 siblings develop schizophrenia. With unprecedented access and exclusive inter-

views with the family, the series explores this terrifying and heart-wrenching true story that made its way into medical history.

American Ninja Warrior
NBC, 7 p.m.

The qualifying rounds continue in Los Angeles with ninjas from around the country taking on the world’s most challenging obstacle course.

The 1% Club
FOX, 8 p.m.

In the new episode “Santa Doesn’t Do Double Negatives,” a Santa lookalike, a viral dancer and a dog fanatic are among 100 contestants competing in the quiz show for the chance to win up to \$100,000. Patton Oswalt hosts.

Erased: WW2’s Heroes of Color
Nat Geo, beginning at 8 p.m. ■ **Series Finale**

This series that spotlights the contributions and sacrifices made by Allied soldiers of color during World War II concludes with two hourlong episodes. The first one reveals the gripping story of Force K6, a little-known Indian regiment of mule handlers, one unit of which was destined to be pivotal in evacuating Allied forces at Dunkirk. The next and final installment explores the Black Panthers, an elite African American tank battalion. Unseen diaries and rare interviews chart the unit’s action through France, Belgium and Germany, including in the bloodiest American battle of the war: the Battle of the Bulge.

Weakest Link
NBC, 9 p.m.

A bird trainer, a P.E. teacher and a landlord are three of the eight players hoping to win the huge cash jackpot in this high-stakes trivia game.

A black and white photograph of a man and a woman sitting at a table. The man is looking at the woman, who is looking down at something on the table. They appear to be in a serious conversation.

Luzhin Defence (2000, score by Alexandre Desplat).

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Taj Mahal city
5 Hors d'oeuvres spread
9 Type of ski lift
13 Greet the day
15 Clever thought
16 Cogito__sum
17 Low-slung jeans
19 Semimonthly tide
20 Hit the gas
21 Term of endearment
23 Mega Stuf cookie
25 Helped out
26 1993 film about the Olympic bobsled team from Jamaica
32 “Just Mercy” actor __ Jackson Jr.
33 __leches cake
34 Quiet “Quiet!”
37 Landed on a perch
38 “The Road Not Taken” poet Robert
40 Clever tactic
41 Brit’s washroom
42 Get ready, for short
43 Within the__of possibility
44 Magazine with tips and techniques for anglers
47 “I feel the same”
50 Some 30-Down employees: Abbr.
51 Like some sandals
54 Up for discussion
59 N, on a French map

DOWN
1 Spa sounds
2 Subject of a basic golf lesson
3 Like a fragrant melon
4 Wimbledon winner Arthur
5 “Peanuts” character in a cloud of dirt
6 Suffix with lemon and Gator
7 Maryland athlete, for short
8 Reduce, as anxiety
9 Sport for 4-Down
10 Sourdough or rye
11 Best competitive effort, informally
12 Cordoned (off)
14 Pulitzer-winning novelist Welty
18 Hindu spiritual mentor
22 Identifies on social media
24 Pertinent to the discussion

ACROSS
60 New beginning, and a feature of 17-, 26-, and 44-Across
62 Beige hue
63 Mattress specification
64 Dramatic ballroom dance
65 Quaker’s “you”
66 Sail the seven__
67 Adolescent

DOWN
26 Mined fuel
27 Norway home of the Munch Museum
28 Cleveland’s state
29 Allow
30 Tax-collecting org.
31 After expenses
34 Bang shut
38 Cook in a wok
39 NFL official
40 Part of mph
42 Parcel of land
43 Fight against
44 Dish with melted cheese or chocolate
45 Muscle cramps, e.g.
46 Owns, biblically
47 Impressionist painter Claude
48 Noteworthy time period
49 Pied-à-__: secondary residence
52 Trade-__: concessions
53 Cleveland’s lake
55 Sports page datum, for short
56 Of sound mind
57 Encourage
58 School near Windsor Castle
61 Noteworthy time period

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13				14		15				16				
17					18					19				
20							21		22					
				23			24			25				
26	27	28	29				30	31						
32							33				34	35	36	
37						38	39				40			
41				42						43				
				44					45	46				
47	48	49				50								
51					52	53		54			55	56	57	58
59					60		61							
62					63					64				
65					66						67			

By Noelle Griskey ©2024 Tribune Content Agency 6/10/24

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

Put yourself in the South seat. When you hear your partner respond one spade, you do not quite have enough for a game-forcing jump to three clubs at your second turn, but two clubs might be passed out. You compromise with two no-trump, and partner bids a forcing three diamonds. Aware of the slam possibilities facing weak spades, you show your heart values, and partner cue-bids four clubs. That is all you need to hear to drive to slam. West kicks off with a trump lead, and you can see two black-suit losers. Both of dummy’s clubs can go on the hearts. You could then try to ruff clubs on table, but you lack the entries to do so without conceding a spade trick along the way, at which point a trump continuation would leave you unable to ruff three clubs. You would be reliant on the club king falling in three rounds. Is there a better line? You might be able to ruff out the opponents’ spades to make something of dummy’s holding in that suit. Try winning the trump in hand and giving up a spade immediately. You take the next trump with dummy’s king. If diamonds break 3-1, you lack the entries to establish

NORTH
♠ J 10 9 8 4
♥ 9
♦ K 9 5 3
♣ A 8 4

WEST
♠ K Q 7 6
♥ J 8 7 5 3
♦ 8 4
♣ 6 3

EAST
♠ A 5 3
♥ 10 6 4 2
♦ 10 2
♣ K J 9 5

SOUTH
♠ 2
♥ A K Q
♦ A Q J 7 6
♣ Q 10 7 2

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: South

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♦ Pass
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
6 ♦ All pass

Opening Lead: Diamond four

the spades and retain trump control, so you will need to rely on the club king falling. However, when trumps are 2-2, you can use your time in dummy to ruff a spade. The top hearts provide club discards, after which you cross to the club ace to ruff another spade. You ruff a club back and take a third spade ruff, establishing dummy’s 13th spade for the club discard, with a trump left to reach it.

LEAD WITH THE ACES

South holds:

♠ 8 4 2
♥ K Q J 8 6
♦ J 5 3 2
♣ Q

South West North East

Pass Pass 1 ♠ 1 ♠

Dbl. 2 ♠ 5 ♣ 5 ♠

All pass

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LOOKING BACK

1967: Six days of war in the Mideast involving Israel, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq ended as Israel and Syria accepted a United Nations-mediated cease-fire.
1971: President Richard M. Nixon lifted a two-decades-old trade embargo on China.
1977: James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee with six others; he was recaptured June 13.

BIRTHDAYS

Actor **Alexandra Stewart** is 84. Singer **Shirley Alston Reeves** (The Shirelles) is 82. Actor **Jurgen Prochnow** is 82. Media commentator **Jeff Greenfield** is 80. Actor **Frankie Faison** is 74. Football Hall of Famer **Dan Fouts** is 72. Country singer-songwriter **Thom Schuyler** is 71. Actor **Andrew Stevens** is 68. Singer **Barrington Henderson** is 67. Rock musician **Kim Deal** is 62. R&B singer **Faith Evans** is 50. Singer **Hoku** is 42. Actor **Leelee Sobieski** is 41.

tv

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Aye Candy sweetens the speakeasy craze

By Bao Ong
STAFF WRITER

Customers can find Bandista at the Four Seasons Hotel — behind a bookcase. To get to Mèo Bar in the Heights, you have to pass through Tex-Asian restaurant Wokker and lift a framed photo of a cat to ring a doorbell. At Monarca Modern Mexican Cocina in The Woodlands, patrons can find an entrance to Gus through a door where the keyhole is covered with an illustration of an eye.

Aye Candy, which opened June 4 in Spring Branch at 1849 Bingle, joins a long list of speakeasies in Houston, but it is the first with a candy shop theme.

“We wanted to bring an adult escape to the neighborhood,” said owner Cristy Velasco in a statement. “We felt a true cocktail bar of this nature was desired, so we figured why not create one.”

In a city full of top-notch bars, some recognized as among the best in the country, this former home to an insurance office has transformed into a den for craft cocktails in a sleek space where adults are encouraged to dress up for a night out.

The newest bar in town comes from the Velasco family, who bought the Spring Branch property over a quarter century ago and ran an insurance company out of it.

Cristy Velasco decided the neighborhood, which has attracted buzzy restaurants over the past few years, could use an upscale bar. She partnered with her mother, Mely Velasco, and brother, Rafael Velasco, to open Aye Candy. The “aye” in the name means “wow” in Spanish.

Customers have to enter through a room designed to look like an old-school candy shop before finding Aye Candy. There are baby blue shelves lined with jars of candy.

Inside Aye Candy, dim lighting sets the mood. Velvet-covered seats beckon, and gold-framed artwork is scattered throughout the bar, which is only open to patrons 25 and older. They’re also encouraged to dress up, since “hats, flip flops and jogging shorts” aren’t allowed, according to a press release.

Aye aims to mirror under-



Photos by George Villa

Aye Candy in Spring Branch offers classic cocktails as well some new creations, such as the Royale.

ground bars in Mexico City, where there’s upbeat music and people drink cocktails deep into the night, according to Cristy Velasco.

The bar will offer classic cocktails, as well as more creative ones, some even garnished with candy.

Favorites like an Old-Fashioned get a touch of vanilla. The Watermelon High is made with reposado tequila, fresh watermelon and lime juice topped off with fire bitters. A cocktail dubbed the Gold Escalade is made with mezcal, pineapple juice and lime juice.

There will be wines on the menu in addition to charcuterie boards for food. A host will sell candy.

Aye Candy hours are 5 p.m.-midnight Tuesday-Wednesday and 5 p.m.-2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday. Happy hour is offered 5-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. There is complimentary valet parking.



The owners of Aye Candy encourage guests to dress up in style before heading to the bar.

‘MURDER’

From page A8

has been seeing a woman, Maxine (Geena Quintos), rather than another man. The change gives the drama a frisson that would have been all but forbidden in the ’50s, raises the stakes of scandal and helps the cocksure Tony stand for something bigger, namely an arrogant, embittered patriarchy. Tony hasn’t merely been cuckolded; his manhood has been diminished. His murder plot is motivated primarily by greed, but a deeper resentment seems to simmer beneath.

The cast is excellent, and we’ll get to them in a moment. But the real star here is director Tatiana Pandiani, returning to the Alley after helming



Melissa Taylor

Todd Waite and Brandon Hearnberger turn in outstanding performances in “Dial M For Murder.”

last year’s first-rate “Torera.” She and her team have crafted a production that pops off the stage on all levels, including lighting (high contrast, with pools of shadow), music (a mix of foreboding strings and atmospheric pop, including The Avalanches’ “Frontier Psychiatrist”) and midcentury modern design. “Dial M for Murder” never feels like it’s confined to one set. The show is expansive and crisply paced, fresh and alive. It takes the material’s cozier qualities and zips them into the present.

The three leads are all strong, with Hearnberger registering as the kind of blithely evil villain capable of charming his way into all manner of foul deeds. Quintos and Zimmermann generate sparks. And a couple of resi-

dent Alley stalwarts, Todd Waite as the Columbo-like Inspector Hubbard and Dylan Godwin as the blackmailed Lesgate, fill out the edges with precision and wit.

The Alley often has a default instinct to play things for laughs where you don’t really expect them. It doesn’t always work; the recent production of “Jane Eyre” felt a little too jo-vial and rom-com for the material. But the humor in this “Dial M” generally feels organic, and the actors, particularly Waite, showcase fine timing. Murder may be nothing to joke about in real life, but this is the stage, where dark comedy is free to roam. “Dial M for Murder” talks a great game; more importantly, it makes for a lively, bracing night of theater.

ELVIS

From page A8

was in the choir at Conroe High School and graduated in 2008.

As a boy he learned about Elvis and his songs from his grandfather and great-grandfather and then his older sister.

Even though he was a member of a younger generation, the older music appealed to him more than today’s tunes.

He would sing Elvis songs at karaoke night at the now closed George’s Bar and Grill in Conroe. He developed a fan base and group of friends who enjoyed the tunes.

Tribute to his mother

His ailing mother was the one to sway him to beginning his career as an Elvis tribute artist.

“She died of cancer on March 21, 2021. The night

before she died I sang Elvis’ “Peace in the Valley” to her,” he said. “She told me I should really go to nursing homes and retirement centers and perform there.”

He obtained a white jumpsuit in the Aloha style Elvis wore in the 1970s from eBay and carried out her suggestion.

“It has brought me a lot of joy and them a lot of joy as well,” he said. He said the first white Aloha suit was pretty “rinky dink” but he has kept it as a memento as he upgraded outfits.

Now he’s gone on to perform around Conroe at events, open mics and had his most recent show in Richmond.

Re-creating Elvis on stage

Smith sticks to the 70s era but his favorite Elvis tunes to sing are “Polk Salad Annie” and “Suspicious Minds.” His mentor is



J. Patric Schneider/Contributor

Lorie Walters enjoys her birthday as Jordan Smith performs as Elvis at the Lone Star Saloon.

Houston-area Elvis tribute artist Vince King.

“Once I’m in the jump suit, I am Elvis,” he said. “Sometimes I catch myself outside of the jump suit talking like Elvis and I don’t even notice.”

He met local drummer Chris Martinez outside The Corner Pub watering hole in downtown Conroe a few years ago.

Martinez saw the Elvis jump suit and waved him over to outside the pub with “Hey, Elvis.” Martinez and his friends ended up taking pictures with Smith. He was intrigued to see a 20-something guy as Elvis.

Smith has gone on to play open-mic nights at The Corner Pub where Martinez also often plays.

“When we finally convinced him to do an open mic at The Corner Pub, he floored the place,” Martinez said. “It was refreshing to see somebody as young

as him doing an Elvis thing. He’s got a lot of gumption. People love what he does. Not only does he have the outfit but he’s got the voice to back it up.”

Traveling to Graceland

Smith credits his wife, Chelsea Macha, with making the shows a success as she assists during the shows and is a major supporter of his career.

“People will come up to me after a show and say ‘Man, you were really good,’” he said. “But it’s not just me, it’s her too.”

Later this month the couple will make their first trip to Graceland, Elvis’ home.

He expects to be like a kid in a candy store.

“I’m super excited about it. It’s a once-in-a-blue-moon experience,” he said. “I don’t know about her, but I’m really stoked about it.”

FAMILY CIRCUS



6-10

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"But there aren't any signs around the house that say, 'You break it, you pay for it!'"

ZIGGY



6-10

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THE LAST TIME I THOUGHT OPPORTUNITY WAS KNOCKING, IT TURNED OUT TO BE A WOODPECKER EATING THE WREATH ON MY FRONT DOOR!!

ZITS



6-10

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DON'T FREAK OUT, BUT--

OH MY GOSH!

IS EVERYONE OKAY? WAS THERE ANY DAMAGE?

WHAT HAPPENED? WHO WAS AT FAULT?

I SAY "DON'T FREAK OUT," AND YOU BOTH LITERALLY FREAK OUT.

SORRY. IT'S A PARENT PRESET.

MUTTS



6-10

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WALLACE THE BRAVE



6-10

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YOU'RE UP LATE

I'M WATCHING SOME LAST-MINUTE COACHING VIDEOS

WE PLAY THE STALLIONS TOMORROW, HONEY. THEY'RE A POWERHOUSE TEAM! I WANNA BE PREPARED

DOESN'T MEAN YOU GET TO SLEEP IN THESE RIGHT HERE, THESE ARE CALLED "BASES"

INTERESTING

BABY BLUES



6-10

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GRANDPA! GRANDMA!

GET OVER HERE, YOU RASCALS!

HI, MOM! HI, DAD!

TAKE A NUMBER, WE'LL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY.

LUANN



6-10

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HI, I'M HERE TO VISIT MRS. HORNER

HORNER... LET'S SEE...

OH, LOOKS LIKE SHE LEFT US

HEART OF THE CITY



6-10

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FEAR NOT, ANIME CLUB! I'M HERE TO THE RESCUE!

ME TOO! WE'LL RECOUNT THE PRESIDENTIAL VOTES.

UHM... HOW MANY MEMBERS ARE THERE IN THE ANIME CLUB?

FIFTEEN.

THEN WHERE DID THESE EXTRA TWENTY VOTES COME FROM?

HI & LOIS



6-10

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I USED TO DELIVER NEWSPAPERS ON MY BIKE.

NOW IT COMES BY CAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

SLAP

GO BACK TO SLEEP.

BALDO



6-10

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WOW! WOW! THIS COFFEE IS STRONG!

DON'T LOOK AT ME.

RED & ROVER



6-10

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I KNOW, BIRDS ARE AMAZING.

THEY FLY. THEY SING. THEY ADD GRACE AND BEAUTY TO OUR LIVES.

OK.

I'M JUST TRYING TO STAY CLEAR OF THE ONE WHO NEARLY POOPED ON ME LAST WEEK.

SALLY FORTH



6-10

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ALL SET FOR OUR PATIO PARTY!

TED, IT'S 5:30 A.M., THE PARTY IS TOMORROW, AND I THINK WORK IS EXPECTING YOU TO SHOW UP TODAY.

BREAKING CAT NEWS



6-10

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Local cats continue to search for Sophie.

No, can't say that I saw her come this way.

No, I'd remember seeing Sophie.

I hope wherever she is, there's cheese.

RHYMES WITH ORANGE



6-10

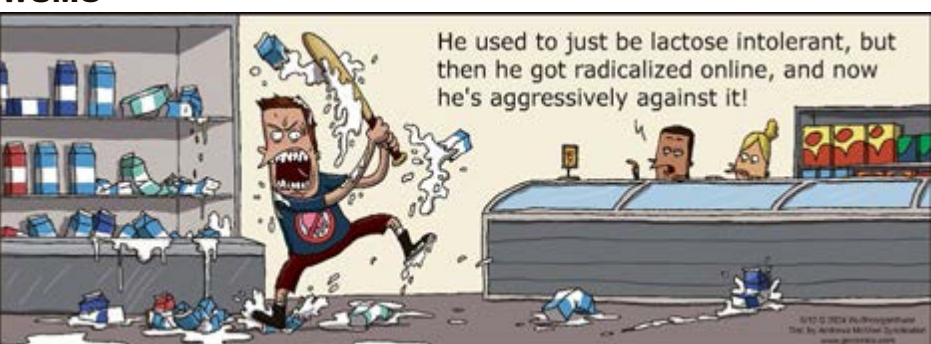
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SPRING CLEANING

A-choo!

THERE'S WING DUST AND THERE'S WING DUST, ROGER.

WUMO



6-10

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He used to just be lactose intolerant, but then he got radicalized online, and now he's aggressively against it!

CRANKSHAFT



6-10

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YOU KNOW... I USED TO WORK WITH FLASH FREEMAN, THE GUY WHO WROTE THOSE STORIES IN THAT STARBUCK JONES OMNIBUS.

IF YOU WANT... I COULD TAKE YOU TO MEET HIM AND HAVE HIM SIGN IT FOR YOU!

SAY YES! SAY YES! SAY YES!

CANDORVILLE



6-10

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DID I JUST SPIT ON HIS FACE WHILE I WAS TALKING?

SHE JUST SPIT ON MY FACE WHILE SHE WAS TALKING.

DID HE NOTICE?

HER SINGLE DROP OF SPIT IS SITTING ON MY NOSE, TAUNTING ME.

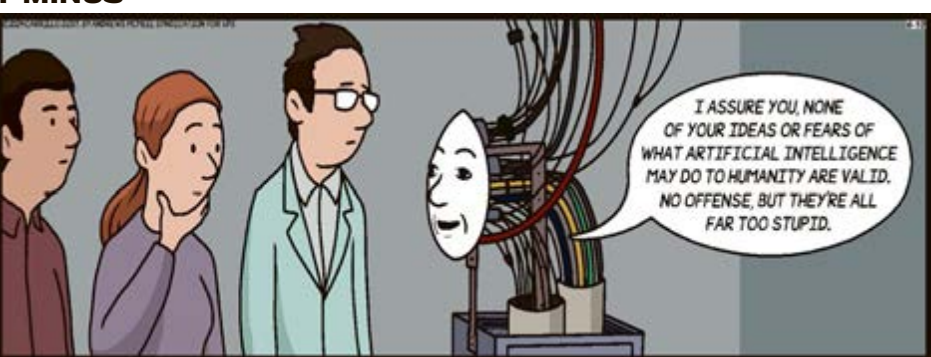
IF I JUST KEEP TALKING, HE'LL FORGET ABOUT IT.

IF I WIPE IT OFF, SHE'LL THINK I THINK SHE'S DISGUSTING.

MAYBE HE DIDN'T NOTICE.

GAAAA!!! IT BURNS!!!

F MINUS



6-10

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I ASSURE YOU, NONE OF YOUR IDEAS OR FEARS OF WHAT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MAY DO TO HUMANITY ARE VALID. NO OFFENSE, BUT THEY'RE ALL FAR TOO STUPID.



Mark J. Terrill/Associated Press
Astros outfielder Trey Cabbage just missed on his attempt to grab Logan O'Hoppe's homer in the ninth.

ANGELS 9, ASTROS 7

Road sweep just out of reach

Cabbage narrowly misses robbing walk-off home run

By Matt Kawahara
STAFF WRITER

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Trey Cabbage drifted back to the left-field wall and leapt. He reached over it, landed and looked at his glove. It was empty. Cabbage sank into a crouch.

Logan O'Hoppe, who

had hit the ball, rounded first base and put his hands on his helmet. Angels third-base coach Eric Young Sr., among the first to realize what had happened, threw his arms in the air.

The baseball ended up over the wall, and the result was a two-run home run for O'Hoppe against

closer Josh Hader that sent the Astros to a 9-7 walk-off loss Sunday in their series finale at Angel Stadium.

It was a fitting end to a frustrating loss for Houston. The Astros held a two-run lead entering the eighth inning. They awoke 26-5 this season

Astros continues on B4

UP NEXT

ASTROS AT GIANTS
When/where: 8:45 p.m. Monday in San Francisco.
TV/radio: SCHN; 740 AM, 790 AM, 93.3 FM (Spanish), 1010 AM (Spanish).

INSIDE

Rookie Loperfido vying for at-bats again after being recalled with Tucker out. **B4**

LIV GOLF



Jon Shapley/Staff photographer
Carlos Ortiz's first victory on the LIV Golf Tour came Sunday at the Golf Club of Houston, serving as a nice bookend to his lone PGA Tour win at Memorial Park.

Ortiz pads local legacy

2020 Houston Open champion uses final-round 67 to hold off Meronk for one-stroke victory

By Perla Paredes
Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

Mexico's Carlos Ortiz won in Houston for the second time as a pro Sunday, claiming his first victory on the LIV Golf Tour.

Ortiz, who won the PGA Tour's Houston Open in 2020 at Memorial Park, prevailed

by one stroke over Adrian Meronk on Sunday at the Golf Club of Houston.

"I love playing here," Ortiz said. "Obviously, Texas treats me well. It's my adopted home state. I'm just happy to get it done again in Houston."

Ortiz and Meronk began the day in a four-way tie for the lead with David Puig and

Paul Casey. Ortiz shot a 5-under 67 for a three-day total of 15 under. Ortiz birdied No. 15, while Meronk made bogey to create a two-stroke gap.

"Honestly, it was just a matter of playing solid coming down the stretch," Ortiz said. "I think there was a switch there on 15 that I made birdie, he made bogey, and I just knew that I had to par in

pretty much, and it was mine. That's what I was trying to do."

Ortiz, who began his day with breathing exercises on the first tee, was finally able to exhale after his final putt on 18 for bogey sealed the win.

After being sprayed with champagne by his Torque GC teammates, Ortiz, 33, opened

his arms in celebration as the skies, which had threatened rain all day, provided a slight sprinkle.

While several in the field will be moving on to the U.S. Open next week, Ortiz won't. He missed qualifying for the event last week.

"It's a shame I doubled the last hole to miss the quali-

LIV continues on B3

SOCCER

Kyle Field goes international in breaking norm

85,249 attend Mexico-Brazil match in first non-football event at venue

By Brent Zwerneman
STAFF WRITER

COLLEGE STATION — A handful of fans primed to root for Mexico climbed out of their car at Texas A&M's Reed Arena evening and happily headed toward the cheers emanating from nearby Ellis Field, home of the A&M soccer team.

About that time, the expectant fans realized the 3,500-seat field that was holding a soccer camp for kids at the time wasn't

their destination for a Mexico-Brazil soccer friendly. The stadium holding about 30 times as many aficionados across the railroad tracks slicing through A&M's campus was the true hotspot.

A&M's historic Kyle Field, home of the Aggies football team for more than a century, for the first time held a widely ticketed event that did not involve football — or at least the kind most popular in the United States.

For the record, Brazil

Kyle continues on B6



Julio Cortez/Associated Press
Guillermo Martinez delights the pro-Mexico crowd of more than 85,000 with a goal that tied Saturday's match at 2-2 before Brazil went on to win 3-2.

ONLINE



CELEBRATING 1994 CHAMPS

Thirty years ago this month, the Houston Rockets won their first NBA championship. Chronicle readers are invited to a private Zoom at noon Tuesday, June 11 to celebrate the anniversary with special guests Matt Bullard and Mario Elie. To sign up, go to houstonchronicle.com/rocketszoom

FRENCH OPEN MEN'S SINGLES



Thibault Camus/Associated Press

Carlos Alcaraz became the youngest man to win major titles on three different surfaces with his win over Alexander Zverev on Sunday at the French Open.

Alcaraz’s rise continues

Spaniard secures third Grand Slam win with five-set victory over Zverev

By Howard Fendrich
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — As Carlos Alcaraz began constructing his comeback in Sunday’s French Open final, a 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 victory over Alexander Zverev for a first championship at Roland Garros and third Grand Slam title in all, there arrived the sort of magical shot the kid is making a regular part of his varied repertoire. It was a running, then sliding, down-the-line, untouchable forehand passing winner that Alcaraz celebrated by thrusting his right index finger overhead in a “No. 1” sign, then throwing an uppercut while screaming, “Vamos!”

No, he is not ranked No. 1 at the moment — the man he beat in the semifinals, Jannik Sinner, makes his debut at the top spot on Monday — but Alcaraz has been there before and, although a “2” will be beside his name next week, there is little doubt that he is as good as it gets in men’s tennis right now. And more accomplished than any man ever was at his age.

Alcaraz is a 21-year-old from Spain who grew up running home from school to watch on TV as country-

man Rafael Nadal was accumulating title after title at Roland Garros — a record 14 — and he eclipsed Nadal as the youngest man to collect major championships on three surfaces. Nadal was about 1½ years older when he did it.

“Different tournaments, different aura,” Alcaraz said when asked to distinguish among his trio of trophies, “but I’m going to say: same feeling. I mean, winning a Grand Slam is always special.”

This one from the clay-court major joins hardware from triumphs on hard courts at the U.S. Open in 2022 and on grass at Wimbledon in 2023. He is 3-0 in Slam finals.

“It’s an amazing career already. You’re already a Hall of Famer. You already achieved so much — and you’re only 21 years old,” said Zverev, who also lost the 2020 U.S. Open final, that one after being two points from winning. “Incredible player. Not the last time you’re going to win this.”

Zverev, a 27-year-old from Germany, exited the French Open in the semifinals each of the past three years, including after tearing ankle ligaments during the second set against Nadal in that round in 2022.

On Sunday against Alcaraz, Zverev faltered after surging in front by reeling off the last five games of the third set. Alcaraz’s level dipped during that stretch and he seemed distracted by a complaint over the condition of the clay, telling chair umpire Renaud Lichsteinstein it was “unbelievable.”

But Alcaraz reset and ran away with it, taking 12 of the last 15 games while being treated by a trainer at changeovers for some pain and cramping in his left leg.

“I know that when I’m playing a fifth set, you have to give everything and you have to give your heart,” Alcaraz said. “I mean, in those moments, it’s where the top players give their best tennis.”

No. 3 seed Alcaraz and No. 4 Zverev were making their first appearance in a French Open final. Indeed, this was the first men’s title match at Roland Garros since 2004 without at least one of Nadal, Novak Djokovic or Roger Federer.

Alcaraz showed off all of his skills: the drop shots, the artful half-volleys, the intimidating forehands delivered aggressively and accompanied by a loud grunt. His 27 forehand winners were 20 more

than Zverev’s total.

In the fifth set, under constant pressure from Alcaraz, Zverev got broken to fall behind 2-1. The next game showed the grit and gumption that already are hallmarks of Alcaraz’s style.

Zverev would hold four break points. He failed to convert any. Alcaraz didn’t let him, and wrapped up the game with a drop shot.

The crowd roared. Alcaraz held his left index finger to his ear while waving his racket. He broke again for 5-2, then served it out and dropped onto his back, caking his shirt with clay — just as Nadal often did after championship point.

Alcaraz first learned to play tennis on the rust-colored surface, although he says he prefers hard courts. Alcaraz says he dreamed long ago of adding his own name to the list of Spanish men to win the event, including his coach, 2003 champion Juan Carlos Ferrero.

And those red-and-yellow Spanish flags that became such an annual fixture at Court Philippe Chatrier in the era of Nadal were there again Sunday, this time for Alcaraz. The difference? The cries of “Ra-fa! Ra-fa!” were now “Car-los! Car-los!”

FRENCH OPEN WOMEN’S DOUBLES

Gauff, Siniakova team up for title

By Jerome Pugmire
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — Coco Gauff is a Grand Slam champion in singles and doubles, something she did not expect to happen so soon.

The 20-year-old American won her first major doubles title on Sunday by teaming with Katerina Siniakova for the French Open trophy. They defeated Italians Jasmine Paolini and Sara Errani 7-6 (5), 6-3, giving Gauff her second major after winning the U.S. Open singles last year.

“I think it’s just one of those things that when you least expect it to happen, it happens,” Gauff said, reflecting on her doubles triumph.

Victory finally came for Gauff in her third women’s doubles final, having been the runner-up in championship matches at Roland Garros in 2022 and the U.S. Open in 2021.

“After I lost the first two (doubles) finals, I thought, ‘well, okay, I reached that point, maybe I should focus on singles,’” Gauff said. “Same thing, U.S. Open. When I won it, I didn’t expect to win. I was having a really bad year. Then here, I didn’t even expect to play. I think it’s funny how life teaches you those lessons.”

Gauff and Siniakova, who is from the Czech Republic, both kissed the Coupe Simonne Mathieu — the winners’ trophy.

“Third time’s a charm. Thank you, Katerina, for playing with me. We decided two days before the tournament to play together,” Gauff said. “Thank you to the fans. I know 11:30 Sunday morning is early for most people. It’s early for me.”

The doubles final was held before the men’s singles final later Sunday between Carlos Alcaraz and

Alexander Zverev.

“I would much rather play before the men’s final than after it, because that could go seven hours. 11:30 was fine. It was just a joke, because I don’t like waking up early,” Gauff said. “I think it was good the tournament scheduled us before that match.”

Paolini was also the runner-up in the singles final at Roland Garros to four-time champion Iga Swiatek on Saturday. Swiatek beat Gauff in the singles semifinal.

“The last two weeks were very nice, very emotional,” Paolini said. “I have a lot of memories. I can’t wait to be back.”

Siniakova owns a career Slam in women’s doubles alongside partner Barbora Krejickova and has won eight majors — including the French Open in 2018 and 2021.

Errani also owns a career Slam in doubles alongside her former partner Roberta Vinci. The Italian pair won the French Open title in 2012 — the year Errani lost the singles final.

“It’s really special to be in this court again. I don’t know how many more years I have to play. But it’s always special to play these kinds of matches,” the 37-year-old Errani said. “It will be special to play the Olympics here in this place. So I’ll see you in one month.”

Paolini was playing in her first final in women’s doubles.

Gauff and Siniakova took the first set when Errani’s volley at the net went long and raced to a 4-1 lead in the second set, with Paolini 0-30 down on her serve.

The Italians fought back to 4-3 with a service game to follow, but Errani’s serve was broken again and their momentum was lost.



Jean-Francois Badias/Associated Press

Coco Gauff, left, won the first Grand Slam doubles title of her career in her third trip to a major final.

NCAA BASEBALL SUPER REGIONALS ROUNDUP

Florida scores two in 13th inning to secure berth in CWS

WIRE REPORTS

CLEMSON, S.C. — Michael Robertson’s two-run double in the bottom of the 13th inning on Sunday night sent Florida to an 11-10 victory over Clemson, and with it, the Gators earned a berth in the College World Series.

After Clemson took a 10-9 lead in the top of the 13th, Florida’s Luke Heyman and Tyler Shelnut reached on singles in the bottom of the inning. After a sacrifice bunt moved the runners to second and third, Clemson intentionally walked Brody Donay to load the bases.

Robertson ripped a double to left-center, scoring Jaylen Guy, who was a pinch-runner for Heyman, and Shelnut followed with the win-

ning run.

Robertson’s clutch hit sent Florida (34-28) to Omaha for the 14th time. The Gators won the championship in 2017 and finished second last year.

The Gators claimed the dramatic victory after the Tigers (44-16) had delivered big play after big play to keep their season alive.

In the top of the ninth inning, Florida led 9-6 and was two outs from advancing when the Tigers’ Cam Cannarella stepped to the plate with runners on first and second. He laced the first pitch over the fence in right field for a game-tying three-run home run.

Clemson was in deep trouble again in the bottom of the 10th when Florida had runners on first and second with two

outs. Ashton Wilson drove a deep fly over Cannarella’s head, but the Clemson center fielder was able to track it down in the air and make the catch at the wall with his back to home plate.

Luke McNeillie (4-6) pitched the last two innings for the win, although he served up a homer run to Alden Mathes in the top of the 13th.

GEORGIA 11, N.C. STATE 2

Freshman Tre Phelps drove in four runs and Leighton Finley took a shutout into the seventh inning as the Bulldogs evened their Athens Super Regional series against the Wolfpack at one game apiece.

After N.C. State’s stunning 18-1 victory on Saturday, the Bulldogs (43-16) bounced back and tied

the best-of-three series. Game 3 will take place on Monday, with the winner advancing to the College World Series.

Finley (6-1) went 6⅓ innings on the mound, allowing one run and eight hits. Zending finished the game, allowing only Jacob Cozart’s eighth-inning home run.

NORTH CAROLINA 2 WEST VIRGINIA 1

Vance Honeycutt hit a home run on the game’s first pitch as the Tar Heels held off the Mountaineers on Saturday night, sweeping the best-of-three Chapel Hill Super Regional and grabbing a berth in the College World Series.

North Carolina (47-14) will play in its 12th CWS looking to win it for the first time. The Tar Heels finished second in back-

ONLINE

Coverage of Texas A&M’s super regional Game 2 against Oregon at houstonchronicle.com/sports

to-back seasons, losing both times to Oregon State in 2006-07.

The game turned out to be the last for West Virginia (36-24) head coach Randy Mazey, who announced he would step down after the season and turn the reins over to longtime associate head coach Steve Sabins.

Mazey retires with a 541-424-2 record with head coaching stops at Charleston Southern (1994-96) and East Carolina (2003-05) before taking the job with the Mountaineers in 2013. Mazey won conference coach-of-the-year honors in the Big South and Conference USA before earning the award in the

Big 12 in 2019 and last season.

KENTUCKY 10 OREGON STATE 0

Trey Pooser pitched the first seven innings of a one-hitter and Ryan Nicholson drove in three runs as the Wildcats defeated the Beavers on Saturday to open the Lexington Super Regional.

In his seven innings on the mound, Pooser (7-1) allowed one hit, struck out eight and walked four batters for Kentucky. Only one runner reached third base and two others made it as far as second. Jackson Nove finished with two hitless innings, striking out four.

GOLF



Richard Bland, second from left, celebrates with his Cleeks GC teammates after winning the team portion of the LIV event for the first time. Adrian Meronk, Martin Kaymer and Kalle Samooja also are part of the team.

LIV

From page B1

er,” Ortiz said. “It hurt a lot. But I think with time, we’re going to get back in- to the majors, because I know that I’m one of the best players in the world right now, and I deserve to be there. But the way things are happening right now, it’s kind of hard. I’ll do my best to get into the British Open, and I also have the summer Olympics, too, other than the LIV tournaments coming up.”

Meronk had tied Ortiz for the lead with consecutive birdies at 11, 12 and 13 before his bogey at 15. Trailing by two going into the final hole, Meronk gave himself a slight chance when he reached the green in two and had a birdie putt. Ortiz had gone over the green and had to take a drop after his ball landed up against the wall of a spectator club.

But Ortiz hit a nice chip, and Meronk missed his birdie putt.

Ortiz said that as he set up his chip, he was thinking, “Don’t chunk it.” He didn’t.

“I’ve been working on those chips,” he said. “It’s easy right now.”

Local favorite Patrick Reed tied for third with Puig at 13 under after overcoming a bogey on his first hole to finish with a 68.

The Cleeks GC, led by Poland’s Meronk, won the team title at 33 under. Also contributing for the all-European team were Martin Kaymer (Germany), Richard Bland (England) and Kalle Samooja (Finland).

It was the Cleeks’ first team title on the LIV tour, which, in addition to an individual winner, also recognizes four-man teams.

The LIV tour has six events left this season, including its championship in Dallas on Sept. 20-22. That just happens to the adopted hometown of Ortiz.

“I guess Texas likes me,” Ortiz said. “And I like Texas back.”

SUNDAY’S FINAL-ROUND RESULTS

15-under		
Carlos Ortiz, \$4,000,000	66-68-67-201	
14-under		
Adrian Meronk, \$2,250,000	65-69-68-202	
13-under		
David Puig, \$1,250,000	68-66-69-203	
Patrick Reed, \$1,250,000	67-68-68-203	
11-under		
Sergio Garcia, \$800,000	67-70-68-205	
10-under		
Graceme McDowell, \$608,333	69-68-69-206	
Lucas Herbert, \$608,333	69-68-69-206	
Anirban Lahiri, \$608,333	69-69-68-206	
9-under		
Paul Casey, \$396,875	67-67-73-207	
Martin Kaymer, \$396,875	65-72-70-207	
Cameron Tringale, \$396,875	70-69-68-207	
Brooks Koepka, \$396,875	70-72-65-207	
8-under		
Dustin Johnson, \$340,000	67-71-70-208	
7-under		
Matthew Wolff, \$320,000	69-67-73-209	
6-under		
Sebastian Munoz, \$285,000	69-71-70-210	
Henrik Stenson, \$285,000	70-70-70-210	
Talor Gooch, \$285,000	73-71-66-210	



Carlos Ortiz finds a bit of trouble on the 18th hole, but with a two-stroke lead, his bogey was good enough to secure the victory over Adrian Meronk.



David Puig, playing from a bunker on the fourth hole, started Sunday as part of a four-way tie for the lead but couldn't keep pace and finished in a tie for third.



Adrian Meronk lines up a birdie putt on the 18th green that wouldn't fall, ending his chance of forcing a playoff with Carlos Ortiz.

Teams results		
Cleeks GC (M.Kaymer*, R. Bland, A.Meronk, K.Samooja)	33-under	
Fireballs GC (S.Garcia*, A.Ancer, E.Lopez-Chacarra, D.Puig)	31-under	
Smash GC (B.Koepka*, T.Gooch, J.Kokrak, G.McDowell)	31-under	
Torque GC (J.Niemann*, C.Ortiz, M.Pereira, S.Munoz)	25-under	
4 Aces GC (D.Johnson*, P.Uihlein, P.Perez, P.Reed)	25-under	
Crushers GC (B.DeChambeau*, J.Catlin, A.Lahiri, P.Casey)	25-under	
Legion XIII (B. Campbell, T.Hatton, K.Vincent, C.Surratt)	18-under	
HyFlyers GC (P.Mickelson*, B.Steele, A.Ogletree, C.Tringale)	15-under	
Majesticks GC (J.Poulter*, L.Westwood, H.Stenson, S.Horsfield)	15-under	
Ripper GC (C.Smith*, M.Leishman, M.Jones, L.Herbert)	13-under	
Slinger GC (W. Omsby, D.Burnester, C.Schwartzel, B.Grace)	13-under	
Rangegocats GC (B.Watson*, T.Pieters, P.Uihlein, M.Wolff)	10-under	
Iron Heads GC (K.Na*, S.Vincent, D.Lee, J.Kozuma)	4-under	
*Team captain		
5-under		
Jason Kokrak, \$235,000	71-66-74-211	
Bryson DeChambeau, \$235,000	69-70-72-211	
Tyrell Hutton, \$235,000	70-70-71-211	
Lee Westwood, \$235,000	69-72-70-211	
Dean Burnester, \$235,000	72-69-70-211	
Charl Schwartzel, \$235,000	70-72-69-211	
4-under		
Kevin Na, \$182,500	66-72-74-212	
Thomas Pieters, \$182,500	70-68-74-212	
Kieran Vincent, \$182,500	70-70-72-212	
3-under		
Joaquin Niemann, \$151,500	67-69-77-213	
Jinichiro Kozuma, \$151,500	70-73-70-213	
Caleb Suratt, \$151,500	65-76-72-213	
Kalle Samooja, \$151,500	69-73-71-213	
Harold Varner III, \$151,500	70-74-69-213	
2-under		
Brandan Steele, \$141,250	70-70-74-214	
Phil Mickelson, \$141,250	71-69-74-214	
1-under		
Matthew Jones, \$136,250	68-74-73-215	
Mito Pereira, \$136,250	70-74-71-215	
Even		
Eugenio Chacarra, \$132,500	69-72-75-216	
1-over		
Pat Perez, \$127,500	72-68-77-217	
Scott Vincent, \$127,500	73-74-70-217	
Andy Ogletree, \$127,500	71-70-70-217	
Peter Uihlein, \$127,500	74-75-68-217	
2-over		
Ian Poulter, \$123,750	67-72-79-218	
Hudson Swafford, \$123,750	75-70-73-218	
4-over		
Cameron Smith, \$90,000	70-70-80-220	
Anthony Kim, \$90,000	73-76-71-220	
5-over		
Danny Lee, \$60,000	70-72-79-221	
6-over		
Bubba Watson, \$60,000	75-72-75-222	
8-over		
Branden Grace, \$50,000	76-74-74-224	

PGA TOUR

Scheffler secures 5th win of season

By Doug Ferguson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN, Ohio — Scot- tie Scheffler had more stress than he wanted Sunday at the Memorial and got the victory every- one has come to expect.

On a Muirfield Village course so demanding only six players broke par, Scheffler had his highest final round in nearly two years at 2-over 74, and it was just enough to hold off Collin Morikawa and win for the fifth time this year.

Scheffler, who started the final round four shots ahead, never lost the lead. He never felt safe, either, particularly on a back nine where saving par felt like hard work.

That's what it took on the 18th hole. He was lead- ing Morikawa by one shot as both hit approach shots that bounced hard and high off the green and into the rough. Both chipped to about 5 feet. Scheffler bur- ied his putt to win, and the force of his fist pump to celebrate showed how tough this day was on him and practically everybody.

Making the day even more special was the handshake with tourna- ment host Jack Nicklaus and cradling month-old son Bennett at his first PGA Tour event.

“This is a tough place to close out,” Scheffler said. “It was a fun test of golf. I like when it gets this hard. I didn’t do a whole lot great today, but I did enough.”

Just barely. Morikawa, who played

in the final group of both majors this year, holed a 30-foot birdie putt on the par-3 12th hole and stayed on Scheffler's heels the rest of the way. He shot 71, the only one from the final 13 groups to break par.

Adam Hadwin was right there with them until closing with three straight bogeys for a 74 to finish alone in third.

Scheffler finished at 8- under 280 and won \$4 mil- lion from this signature event and its \$20 million purse. That pushes him over \$24 million for the year, breaking the PGA Tour season earnings re- cord — and it's barely June — that he set last year in this era of rising purses.

He also became the first player since Tom Watson in 1980 to have won five times on the PGA Tour be- fore the U.S. Open.

That's next week at Pi- nehurst No. 2, and Scheff- ler will go to the U.S. Open as a huge favorite. This was his 11th consecu- tive tournament with a top 10.

Morikawa picked up \$2.2 million and now has a big cushion as he tries to sew up the fourth spot for the Americans going to Paris this summer for the Olympics.

Hadwin was within one shot of the lead until fin- ishing the front nine with a pair of bogeys. Still, his third-place finish moves him ahead of Corey Con- ners for the second Cana- dian spot in the Olympics.

The world ranking after the U.S. Open determines who goes to Paris.



Andy Lyons/Getty Images

Despite finishing with a 2-over 74, Scottie Scheffler, left, held on to win the Memorial Tournament.

ROUNDUP

Strom shoots 60 for 1st LPGA win

WIRE REPORTS

GALLOWAY, N.J. — Linnea Strom shot a tournament-record 11- under 60 on Sunday to overcome a seven-stroke deficit and win the Sho- pRite LPGA Classic by a shot for her first LPGA Tour title.

After making the cut on the number Saturday, Strom teed off at 8:20 a.m. — three hours, 40 minutes before the final group — on the Bay Course at Seaview Re- sort.

Strom had an eagle — chipping in from 15 feet on the par-5 ninth — and nine birdies to get to 14-under 199. The 27-year- old Swede birdied the last three holes and four of the last five.

“This is proof that you should never give up,” Strom said. “Just go out there and give it your all.”

She had the lowest final-round score by a winner in LPGA Tour history after starting the day tied for 52nd.

Megan Khang and Ayaka Furue of Japan tied for second. Khang closed with a 66, and Furue shot 65.

Els beats Stricker to win playoff

Ernie Els won for the second straight week on the PGA Tour Champi- ons, winning the Ameri- can Family Insurance Championship at Madi- son, Wis., on Sunday when tournament host Steve Stricker missed a 2½-foot putt on the first hole of a playoff.

“He feels bad winning like that and I feel bad giving it to him like that,” said Stricker, who won his hometown event last year. “But he played well.”

Grant overcomes 11-shot deficit

Linn Grant of Sweden chipped in for birdie on the final hole Sunday to repeat her landmark feat by winning the Scandina- vian Mixed at Helsing- borg, Sweden, her second time winning an official European tour event.

It was a stunning hometown win for Grant, who started the final round 11 shots behind and closed with a 7-under 65 for a one-shot victory over Sebastian Soderberg and Calum Hill.

ASTROS

Loperfido vies for at-bats in 2nd stint

By Matt Kawahara
STAFF WRITER

ANAHEIM, Calif. — When the Astros optioned Joey Loperfido back to Triple-A Sugar Land on May 27, he had not played in a week. Loperfido was sick during that stretch, manager Joe Espada said, but it also reflected the state of Houston’s outfield at the time — crowded, with several more experienced players performing well.

Loperfido, the 25-year-old prospect, had “done enough to stay at the major league level” in his first 14 games, Espada said at that point. But the Astros felt Loperfido needed to play regularly to continue his development, and “that probably was not going to be the case right now” on their major league roster, Espada said.

With Loperfido rejoining Houston on Saturday, replacing injured Kyle Tucker on the roster, it invited the question of whether that will be different in his second major league stint.

Loperfido re-enters an outfield mix that appears more malleable than when he left. Tucker, a true everyday player in right field, will be on the IL at least until June 14, opening at-bats in right in his absence. A recent dip in production by

other Astros outfielders, meanwhile, creates more spots where Espada could insert Loperfido and see if he can jolt the lineup.

Jake Meyers was having a torrid May, in which he posted a .924 OPS, when Loperfido was sent down. Entering Sunday, Meyers was 9-for-52 with no extra-base hits over his last 14 games. Chas McCormick, whose return from a hamstring injury in late May translated to fewer chances for Loperfido, was 3-for-27 in 11 games since his IL stint entering Sunday.

Mauricio Dubón had started seven of the Astros’ last eight games, going 6-for-29 in that stretch, but the team values the versatile Dubón in a utility role rather than an everyday one.

Yordan Alvarez has made seven of his last 13 starts in left field, but Alvarez can serve as designated hitter if Houston is receiving production from its other outfield options.

Loperfido was not in the lineup Saturday or Sunday, with the Astros facing Angels left-handers Tyler Anderson and Patrick Sandoval. But Espada said pregame that Loperfido could see more regular playing time during his current call-up.

“I think there’s more opportunities for him to get



Karen Warren/Staff photographer

Joey Loperfido showed he was capable of hitting big-league pitching by turning in a slash line of .333/.381/.436 in his first stint with the Astros.

more everyday at-bats in the position that we’re in right now, yes,” Espada said.

Asked if he expects that to happen, Espada said: “Yeah, I do. I think you guys know how I feel about when you get young players up here ... They need to play for us to figure out present and future of the particular player. But yeah, I think right now where we’re at, I think there’ll be more opportunities.”

On Saturday and Sunday, Meyers started in center field, with Dubón in left field and McCormick in right.

All three contributed to

Saturday’s 6-1 Astros win, illustrating the difficulty Loperfido could still face in carving out regular playing time. McCormick tripled to begin a two-run third inning. Meyers lined an RBI single later in that inning, and Dubón added an RBI single in the eighth.

Espada noted the Astros will likely see multiple right-handed starters in the ensuing series in San Francisco, “so there’s opportunities there for Joey and (Trey) Cabbage.”

The Astros could go heavy on platoon matchups in their outfield for now. Meyers’ range in center field is valuable, but Loper-

fido and Cabbage can play all three outfield spots, giving Espada options against right-handed pitching. Dubón and McCormick can also play all three spots.

With only so much playing time to allot, Espada indicated his outfielders could command it through production.

“I think performance matters,” Espada said. “We are trying to win games. I’m trying to get some of these guys going offensively, so I’m looking for the best matchups for these guys just to put them in position to succeed.”

Loperfido was 13-for-39 with a .333/.381/.436 slash line in his first call-up. With a chance at regular at-bats, he could seize it by replicating that success. Some underlying metrics suggest challenges still await. Loperfido’s 35.3% whiff rate led to 17 strikeouts in 43 plate appearances in his first major league stint. He saw 62.5% fastballs and was 2-for-11 against breaking pitches; he could begin to see more of the latter and will need to adjust.

In his last nine games at Triple-A after being optioned, Loperfido was 9-for-43 with two extra-base hits and 13 strikeouts. Defensively, he resumed splitting time between the outfield and first base.

“Just continued working

on my throws in the outfield, working on my jumps in center field,” Loperfido said. “And at the plate, just having good at-bats. I felt like hitting-wise, just continuing to refine everything, kind of how we’ve been doing since spring training. Some weeks will be better than others, but I think the process of everything stays the same.”

In his first call-up, Loperfido did pregame work at first base but did not appear there in a game. He was optioned when José Abreu returned, giving the Astros two first-base options in Abreu and Jon Singleton. Espada said Saturday that he “can see” Loperfido playing first base but “not immediately.”

Tucker said Saturday he hopes to miss the minimum of 10 days on the IL but was still using a crutch to keep weight off his contused right shin, lending his timeline some uncertainty. So less than two weeks after his return to Sugar Land, Loperfido re-joined the Astros to try to help mitigate Tucker’s absence.

“I think I know what I’m capable of, and I know the quality of baseball I’m capable of playing,” Loperfido said. “So I’m just going to continue to work to do that and kind of build on things.”

ASTROS

From page B1

when leading after seven. They dropped to 30-36 overall.

With a 7-5 lead after six innings, Houston turned to its leverage bullpen trio. Bryan Abreu had thrown 15 pitches Saturday. He drew the seventh for his 33rd appearance in the Astros’ first 66 games. He threw 26 more pitches, navigating a hit batsman and a walk. Ryan Pressly entered for the eighth.

Pressly had thrown 25 pitches Saturday, deployed in a game Houston led by five runs. He found trouble quickly. O’Hoppe drove his second pitch to the gap in right-center for a double. Zach Neto lined a one-out double on a two-strike slider, scoring O’Hoppe. A wild pitch sent O’Hoppe to third.

A walk to Mickey Moniak set up a potential double play. Michael Stefanić’s slow check-swing grounder negated the possibility, tying the game. It marked the 11th blown saved charged to Astros relievers this season. Pressly has been charged with five of them.

This one underscored earlier offensive failures. Houston put runners on second and third with one out in the seventh inning and scored neither. Back-to-back singles to open the eighth also yielded no runs. The Astros totaled 14 hits and were 5-for-12 with men in scoring position but lacked the clutch hit late.

It stood in contrast to earlier innings. The Astros trailed 4-3 entering the sixth after a laborious outing by Justin Verlander. His counterpart, Patrick Sandoval, retired the inning’s first two hitters. Mauricio Dubón pulled a chopper that clipped the glove of Neto, the Angels shortstop, and sparked a rally.

José Abreu spun on a slider, his sharp grounder reaching the left-field corner for a double. Dubón scored from first base. Abreu had his second hit of the afternoon, his first multi-hit game since he returned from the minors May 27. He entered 5-for-31 in his 10 games since the hiatus. Sandoval had struck



Photos by Mark J. Terrill/Associated Press

Trey Cabbage entered the game in the sixth inning after Alex Bregman’s exit forced some reshuffling.



Logan O’Hoppe’s home run that eluded Cabbage was his fourth hit of the day and second for extra bases.

Chas McCormick out twice. The Angels summoned right-hander Hunter Strickland to face him. Strickland threw three sliders. McCormick flipped one into left field, his double scoring Abreu. Strickland tried a first-pitch slider to Jose Altuve. It hovered. Altuve

hammered it for a two-run homer.

Bregman hit on hand

Third baseman Alex Bregman left the game after being struck on the left hand by a 93.4 mph sinker from Strickland in the sixth. Bregman was hit by a pitch on the same

hand Tuesday and sat out the next day’s game with a hand contusion. The Astros said Bregman left Sunday’s game due to left hand discomfort.

Bregman was replaced on defense in the bottom of the inning. Dubón, who’d started in left field, moved to third, and Cabbage entered the game in left field. O’Hoppe opened the inning by pulling a 102.9 mph ground ball by Dubón, who was charged with an error, and later scored an unearned run.

Verlander struggles

On a day Verlander did not appear to have his best stuff, the Angels made him work. He used 101 pitches to finish five innings. Angels hitters swung at just 37 of them, forging long at-bats and requiring Verlander to work inside the strike zone. He allowed four runs on seven hits.

Kevin Pillar doubled and scored on a sacrifice fly in the second. Verlander allowed no further damage in his first three innings, but his outing was a slog. Four batters made him throw 23 pitches in a scoreless third. Seven arrived to face him in a two-run fourth.

Willie Calhoun’s tap- per eluded Verlander for an infield hit. Verlander plunked Pillar, and O’Hoppe singled to load the bases with no outs. It called for a strikeout, but Verlander struggled to create swing-and-miss Sunday. He induced three whiffs on 37 swings. The Angels swung at just one of 24 curveballs they saw.

They extracted two runs from the inning without another hit. Nolan Schanuel drove a fast-ball to deep right field for a sacrifice fly. Verlander missed up and in with a full-count pitch to Neto, reloading the bases. Moniak’s bunt yielded an out at second base but tied the game.

Seth Martinez began to warm in the fourth. He rose again in the fifth. Calhoun singled in a run with one out, giving the Angels a 4-3 lead. Verlander sat at 98 pitches. Manager Joe Espada went to the mound. After a brief discussion, he left Verlander in the game. Verlander induced a double play to end the inning.

ON DECK: ASTROS AT GIANTS

When/where: Monday and Tuesday at 8:45 p.m.,

Wednesday at 2:45 p.m.; Oracle Park.

TV: SCHN.

Radio: 790 AM, 103.3 FM (Spanish), 1010 AM (Spanish).

Pitchers: Monday, RHP Spencer Arrighetti (3-5, 5.79) vs. LHP Kyle Harrison (4-3, 4.18); Tuesday, RHP Ronel Blanco (5-2, 2.78) vs. RHP Jordan Hicks (4-2, 2.82); Wednesday, LHP Framber Valdez (5-3, 3.53) vs. RHP Logan Webb (5-5, 2.92).

Astros (30-36) update: Though a potential sweep slipped agonizingly from its hands Sunday, Houston did take two of three from the Angels and stands 6½ games behind Seattle in the American League West and 4½ games behind Minnesota for the third AL wild card. ... Alex Bregman, who exited Sunday’s game after being hit on the left hand for the second time in a week, has an 11-game hitting streak that is the longest by an Astro this season. He’s hitting .381 (16-for-42) in that span. ... Jose Altuve’s four-hit game Sunday was the 39th of his career. ... Altuve has a 65-game errorless streak at second base. ... The Astros are 13-18 on the road.

Giants (32-34) update: San Francisco, which took two of three at Texas over the weekend, has won 13 of its last 22 games, even with a six-game losing streak from May 29-June 4. The Giants trail the Dodgers by nine games in the National League West but, because only four NL teams have winning records, presently hold the No. 2 wild card. ... Third baseman Matt Chapman, who because of a hamstring cramp Sunday sat for only the second time this season, has reached base in his last 25 games. It’s the longest streak by a Giant since Eduardo Núñez reached in 33 straight in 2017. During his streak, Chapman has a slash line of .295/.407/.526 with 22 runs, four homers, 10 doubles and 14 RBIs. ... Outfielder Heliot Ramos has reached base in 26 of his 29 games this season and is slashing .314/.405/.533. ... The Giants are an MLB-best 23-1 (.958) when allowing three or fewer runs.

Steve Schaeffer

Angels 9, Astros 7

Houston	AB	R	H	BB	SO	AVG.
Altuve 2b	5	2	4	3	0	.297
Bregman 3b	3	0	1	1	0	.227
Cabbage lf	1	0	0	0	1	.237
Alvarez dh	3	0	0	2	0	.292
Peña ss	5	0	1	1	0	.300
Diaz c	5	0	1	0	1	.257
Meyers cf	5	0	2	0	2	.263
Dubón lf-3b	3	2	1	0	1	.297
J. Abreu 1b	4	2	2	1	0	.132
McCormick rf	4	1	2	1	0	.214
Totals	38	7	14	7	3	6

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BB	SO	AVG.
Stefanić 2b	5	0	0	1	0	.167
Guillorme 2b	0	0	0	0	0	.289
Rengifo 3b	4	1	2	0	0	.315
Ward lf	5	0	0	0	2	.247
Calhoun dh	3	1	2	1	0	.236
J-Tucker pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	.178
a-Adell ph	1	0	0	0	0	.189
Pillar rf	4	3	2	0	1	.381
O’Hoppe c	5	3	4	2	0	.269
Schanuel 1b	2	0	0	2	2	.211
Neto ss	3	1	1	1	0	.247
Moniak cf	3	0	1	2	1	.167
Totals	35	9	12	9	2	8

Houston	003	004	000-7	14	2
Los Angeles	010	211	022-9	12	0
One out when winning run scored.					
a-flied out for Tucker in the 9th.					
J-ran for Calhoun in the 7th.					
E-Dubón 2 (5). LOB-Houston 8, Los Angeles 8.					
2B-Bregman (12), J. Abreu (2), McCormick (4), Meyers (6), Pillar (4), O’Hoppe (8), Neto (14). HR-Altuve (10), off Strickland; O’Hoppe (8), off Hader. RBIs-Altuve 3 (25), Bregman (30), Peña (24), J. Abreu (7), McCormick (9).					
VP-Schanuel 2 (22), Moniak 2 (11), Calhoun (8), Neto (24). Stefanić (1), O’Hoppe 2 (28). SB-Meyers (5), Moniak (4), Rengifo 2 (17), O’Hoppe (1). CS-Moniak (1). SF-Schanuel 2.					

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Verlander	5	7	4	4	0	3	101	3.95
Martinez, H, 3	2/3	0	1	0	0	2	15	2.12
Montero, H, 8	1/3	1	0	0	0	0	8	3.04
B. Abreu, H, 14	1	0	0	1	1	26	2.97	
Pressly, BS, 1-6	2/3	2	2	2	1	1	17	5.40
Hader, L, 3-4	2/3	2	2	2	1	1	15	4.08

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sandoval	5/2/3	8/5	5/3	4	9/9	5/23		
Strickland	1/3	2	2	2	0	10	3.33	
Moore	1	2	0	0	0	18	5.11	
Garcia	1	2	0	0	1	9	4.28	
Estévez, W, 1-3	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	4.05

Inherited runners-scored-Montero 1-1, Hader 1-0, Strickland 1-1. 1BB-off Sandoval (Alvarez), HBP-Verlander 2 (Pillar, Neto), Strickland (Bregman), B. Abreu (Rengifo).

VP-Pressly.

Umpires-Horne, John Tumpane; First, Nick Mahley; Second, Jonathan Parra; Third, Hunter Wendelstedt.

T-313. A-42,703 (45,517).

Saturday’s game

Astros 6, Angels 1

Houston	AB	R	H	BB	SO	AVG.
Altuve 2b	5	1	2	1	0	.288
Bregman 3b	4	1	1	0	1	.325
Alvarez dh	4	2	3	2	0	.296
Peña ss	4	1	1	0	0	.302
Diaz c	4	0	1	1	0	.258
Meyers cf	4	0	1	1	0	.259
Dubón lf	4	0	1	1	0	.296
J. Abreu 1b	4	0	0	0	1	.118
McCormick rf	4	1	1	0	0	.202
Totals	37	6	11	6	1	8

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BB	SO	AVG.
Schanuel 1b	4	1	1	1	2	.213
Rengifo 3b	4	0	0	0	1	.312
Ward lf	2	0	0	3	0	.252
Calhoun dh	3	0	1	0	1	.286
J-Tucker pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	.178
a-Stefanić ph	1	0	1	0	0	1.000
Neto ss	4	0	0	0	1	.245
Thaiss c	4	0	1	0	0	.220
Adell rf	3	0	0	1	1	.190
Moniak cf	4	0	1	0	1	.163
Guillorme 2b	4	0	1	0	0	.289
Totals	33	1	6	1	9	

Houston	002	020	020-6	11	0
Los Angeles	000	000	100-1	6	0
a-singled for Tucker in the 9th.					
J-ran for Calhoun in the 7th.					
LOB-Houston 6, Los Angeles 13.					
2B-Alvarez 2 (15).					
3B-McCormick (1).					
HR-Alvarez (13), off Anderson; Schanuel (7), off Montero.					
RBIs-Altuve (22), Meyers (25), Alvarez 2 (33), Diaz (33), Dubón (21), Schanuel (20).					
SB-Adell (9), Altuve (9), Moniak (3), Rengifo (15).					
Runners left in scoring position-Houston 2 (McCormick, Diaz); Los Angeles 8 (Thaiss 2, Schanuel 2, Rengifo, Neto 2, Guillorme).					
RISP-Houston 5 for 12; Los Angeles 0 for 7.					

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Brown, W, 2-5	6	2	0	0	4	7	98	5.58
Montero	2/3	1	1	1	0	1	19	3.08
B. Abreu, H, 13	1/3	0	0	0	2	25	4.81	
Pressly	1	2	0	0	0	2	15	3.06
Scott	1	1	0	0	0	0	17	1.76

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Anderson, L, 5-6	6	7	4	4	1	3	90	2.63
Cimber	1	0	0	0	1	11	5.70	
Joyce	1/3	4	2	2	0	0	20	13.50
Fulmer	1	2/3	0	0	0	4	23	3.00

Inherited runners-scored-B. Abreu 1-0, Fulmer 2-0.

HBP-Brown (Neto), Anderson (Alvarez).

WP-Pressly.

Umpires-Horne, Hunter Wendelstedt; First, John Tumpane; Second, Nick Mahley; Third, Jonathan Parra.

T-246.

A-38,217 (45,517).

OLYMPICS



G Fiume/Getty Images
Caitlin Clark would have been the rare WNBA rookie on the U.S. team.

Clark accepts missing Games

By Doug Feinberg
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caitlin Clark hopes to play for the U.S. Olympic team one day. It just won't be in Paris next month.

The Indiana Fever rookie confirmed on Sunday that she isn't on the roster for this year's Olympics.

"I think it just gives you something to work for," Clark told reporters after practice in Indianapolis. "It's a dream. Hopefully one day I can be there. I think it's just a little more motivation. You remember that. Hopefully when four years comes back around, I can be there."

The next Summer Olympics are in Los Angeles in 2028.

Clark has averaged 16.8 points, 5.3 rebounds and 6.3 assists so far in her young professional career with the Fever.

She wasn't included on the U.S. roster that was provided to the Associated Press on Saturday by a person familiar with the team. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no official announcement had been made.

The roster includes A'ja Wilson, Breanna Stewart and Diana Taurasi, who is going for a record sixth Olympic gold medal.

"I'm excited for the girls that are on the team," Clark said. "I know it's the most competitive team in the world, and I know it could have gone either way of me being on the team or me not being on the team. I'm excited for them. Going to be rooting them on to win gold. I was a kid that grew up watching the Olympics. It'll be fun to watch them."

The U.S. has won every gold medal in women's basketball starting with the 1996 Atlanta Games.

Clark said she received a phone call letting her know she wasn't chosen for this year's team.

"They called me and let me know before everything came out, which was really respectful of them, and I appreciate that," Clark said. "They did the same for every girl that made the team or every girl that didn't make the team. There's a lot of players in the Olympic pool. It wasn't like I was the only one they had to call. They had to make quite a few calls."

Beginning with her record-breaking collegiate career at Iowa, Clark has brought millions of new fans to women's basketball. The U.S. has specific selection procedures in determining who is on the national team that include availability, position played and versatility.

Based on her inclusion in the U.S. national team pool, Clark could be chosen as an alternate if one of the 12 players is injured and can't play. Anyone in the pool is eligible to be an alternate.

NBA FINALS MAVERICKS

Doncic an inspiration at home

Star's work ethic praised by those at his old school

By Justin Spike
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia — The laughter of schoolchildren at recess and basketballs ringing on the pavement echoed through the quiet streets of a residential district in Slovenia's capital, the place where Dallas Mavericks superstar Luka Doncic got his start.

The 25-year-old phenom has led his franchise to just its third appearance in the NBA Finals, where the Mavericks lost the opening game to the Boston Celtics despite 30 points from Doncic. Game 2 was Sunday night.

Doncic has already racked up a raft of accolades that have him on track to be one of the greatest Europeans — or anyone else — to play the game.

But his road to a shot at an NBA championship started two decades and 5,500 miles from the bright lights of Dallas at the Miran Jarc primary school in Ljubljana, a city of around 300,000 nestled in a green valley of the Slovenian Alps.

"My first impression was that he was taller than all the guys at his age, and he really moved with the ball really great. You could feel that he's really talented," said Rok Dezman, who coached Doncic at the school from the age of 6.

Doncic's precociousness on the court was evident from the first grade, Dezman said, so he immediately began competing with players several years older than him to even the playing field.

But that age disparity meant that Doncic, today standing at 6-foot-7, didn't always have a height advantage, leading him to focus on sinking shots from a distance rather than measuring up against bigger players under the rim.

Still, Dezman said, Doncic sought ways to outsmart his age and size disadvantage.

"He took it as a challenge every time that he dealt with older guys," Dezman said. "He was trying to find



Adam Glanzman/Getty Images
Mavericks star Luka Doncic has always been singularly focused on success, according to Rok Dezman, the Slovenian's coach from his days at Miran Jarc primary school in his hometown of Ljubljana.



Darko Bandic/Associated Press
Ninth grader Aleksandar Drobnjak, who attends Doncic's former school, says it's "an honor and a pleasure" to attend the Dallas star's alma mater.

a way to finish also in the paint. The size didn't matter to him."

Hanging on a wall inside the school is a printed photo of Doncic with a quote attributed to him: "I never dreamed of success. I worked for it."

According to Uros Rozman, Doncic's gym teacher at Miran Jarc from fourth through seventh grade, that inspirational slogan truly reflects the single-mindedness Doncic always displayed for upping his game.

"Talent is important, but when you grow up and play with adults, talent is not enough. You must work hard, and he was a hard worker in our school already," said Rozman, who today is the principal of the school. "The basketball was in his hands all the time."

Shortly after starting to play on his primary school team, Doncic joined the youth league of the Union Olimpija club in Ljubljana, where he continued to practice with players several years his senior. Once he

finished the seventh grade, he left his country and family to play for the youth academy of Real Madrid in Spain.

Only five years later, he'd be drafted into the NBA.

The reverberations of Doncic's success are felt by all the students at Miran Jarc, said Aleksandar Drobnjak, a ninth grader at the school who plays for the same youth team, Olimpija, that Doncic did as a youngster.

Drobnjak said attending Doncic's alma mater is "an

RESULTS/SCHEDULE

No. 1 Boston 1, No. 5 Dallas 0	
Game 1:	Boston 107, Dallas 89
Game 2:	at Boston, late
Game 3:	at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday (ABC)
Game 4:	at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. Friday (ABC)
Game 5:	at Boston, 7:30 p.m. June 17 (ABC)
Game 6:	at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. June 20 (ABC)
Game 7:	at Boston, 7:30 p.m. June 23 (ABC)
*If necessary	

honor and a pleasure" and that he and other students have taken inspiration from his work ethic.

"Every single pupil at this school knows Luka Doncic went to our school and now is a world famous basketball star," he said. "If we can do the same thing as him, we can be famous like him. With hard work, with focus, with listening, with honor."

On the court, Doncic displays a swagger and confidence not typical of most European players, and he is known for venting his emotions during games to both officials and opponents.

According to Dezman, Doncic's first coach, it's a competitiveness that he's showed since his earliest days in the gym at his primary school in Ljubljana.

"He's stayed the same guy. The main thing with Luka is that he lives basketball," Dezman said. "He's a born winner. He has to win."

STANLEY CUP FINAL

Panthers wary of dangerous Oilers

By Tim Reynolds
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Up 1-0 in Round 1 against Tampa Bay, the Florida Panthers said they had to get better. Down 1-0 in Round 2 against Boston, they said it again. Up 1-0 in the Eastern Conference Final against the New York Rangers, same thing.

And now, leading the Stanley Cup Final 1-0 over the Edmonton Oilers going into Game 2 on Monday night, nothing has changed.

There will be no relaxing, the Panthers — 3-0 winners in the Cup opener — insisted on Sunday. No change of approach, no sense of accomplishment, nothing but an effort to be even sharper in Game 2 against an Oilers team that outshot them by a ton in Game 1 and rarely gets shut down offensively in back-to-back games.

"What can you learn from the game is the most important thing," Panthers coach Paul Maurice said. "Where can you get better? You want to temper all of that when you sit down and watch your video because the other team gets paid, too. That's some pretty good players over there."

Those players over



David Santiago/Tribune News Service
Goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky was brilliant in the Panthers' 3-0 victory in Game 1, stopping 32 shots, including one by Ryan Nugent-Hopkins.

there — led by Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl — liked much of what they brought in Game 1.

They just couldn't beat Sergei Bobrovsky, the Florida goalie who is absolutely dialed in right now. He's got a 1.24 goals-against average and a .953 save percentage in his last four games, plus has yielded two goals or less in 11 of his last 12 contests.

The video confirmed what the Oilers knew: In Game 1, they created great chances.

"There's no panic in our

room right now," Oilers forward Connor Brown said.

With good reason, too. It doesn't take a genius to realize that Edmonton is going to have a certain resolve on Monday night, not just for losing Game 1 of a Cup final — but after getting shut out as well. The Oilers are 3-0-0 in this season in the game immediately following a shutout loss, outscoring teams 19-8 in those games. Add in last year and they're 5-0-0 after a shutout with a scoring margin of 29-14.

And so far in these playoffs, Edmonton has had a bounceback ability. The Oilers are 5-1 in this post-season after a loss, outscoring teams in those games 26-14.

"I think it's been a great trait of ours throughout the whole season, our ability to bounce back, even period to period sometimes," Oilers forward Ryan Nugent-Hopkins said. "Of course, you're going to go through tough stretches throughout the season, and it's how you respond to that. Even

RESULTS/SCHEDULE

Florida 1, Edmonton 0	
Game 1:	Florida 3, Edmonton 0
Game 2:	at Florida, 7 p.m. Monday (ABC)
Game 3:	at Edmonton, 7 p.m. Thursday (ABC)
Game 4:	at Edmonton, 7 p.m. Saturday (ABC)
Game 5:	at Florida, 7 p.m. June 18 (ABC)
Game 6:	at Edmonton, 7 p.m. June 21 (ABC)
Game 7:	at Florida, 7 p.m. June 24 (ABC)
*If necessary	

through the playoffs, we've been able to do that. So, we should take that confidence."

If all those numbers didn't seem impressive enough, try this one: The Oilers have managed one goal or less on 13 occasions this season, including Saturday night. In the game following such an outing, the Oilers are averaging 4.9 goals — 6.0 goals in their last eight such games.

In short, some goals are almost certainly coming from the West champs. But while the Panthers would be wise to brace for that, it's also the Oilers who are saying they expect to see more from their opponent in Game 2 as well.

"That was a game where I don't think it was their best and they're just going to be better," Oilers coach Kris Knoblauch said. "You look at how well they've played throughout these playoffs. I feel we'll see more from them."

CRICKET

India outduels Pakistan in World Cup

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WESTBURY, N.Y. — India successfully defended a small total to beat rival Pakistan by six runs in a low-scoring cricket thriller on Sunday and stay perfect at the Twenty20 World Cup.

After being shocked by the co-host U.S. in the Super Over at Dallas on Thursday, Pakistan recovered well to dismiss India for 119 in 19 overs on another tricky wicket at Long Island's Nassau County International Cricket Stadium. Rain had delayed the start by around 50 minutes.

In its chase, Pakistan stuttered to 113-7 in 20 overs against a menacing pace attack led by Jasprit Bumrah with match-winning figures of 3-14 in four overs and Hardik Pandya chipping away with 2-24 as India finished strongly.

"We were looking at 140, but nevertheless the bowlers did the job," India skipper Rohit Sharma said.

"At the halfway stage we got together and said if things can happen to us,

they can happen to them too. ... Bumrah is going from strength to strength. I'm not going to talk too much about him, we want him to be in that kind of mindset till the end of this World Cup, he's a genius with the ball."

Pakistan appeared to be cruising at 80-3 in 14 overs, but Bumrah then had Pakistan top-scorer Mohammad Rizwan clean bowled for 31 and Iftikhar Ahmed holed out in the deep off the last ball of a terrific spell. Pakistan middle-order batters were squeezed so much in the death overs that it could hit only two boundaries off the final six overs.

Needing 18 off the final over, Naseem Shah (10 not out) smashed Arshdeep Singh for two boundaries before he left the field with tears in his eyes and was consoled by his batting partner Shaheen Shah Afridi as Pakistan lost its second successive Group A game.

India beat Ireland by eight wickets in its opening game at the same ground and leads the group that also features



Adam Hunger/Associated Press

Jasprit Bumrah helped India stay undefeated at the Twenty20 World Cup thanks to a six-run victory over Pakistan on Sunday.

Canada. India and the U.S. have four points — India is top with a better net-run rate.

After two successive losses, Pakistan needs to win its remaining two games against Canada and Ireland and also hope results of other group games go in its favor to progress to the second stage of the tournament. Two teams

advance from the group.

"We played too many dot balls, and the pressure was on us," Pakistan captain Babar Azam said. "You can't expect too much from tailenders. We were not up to the mark in the first six overs, we had targeted 40-45 runs, but we couldn't capitalize properly."

Earlier, India's batting

lineup crumbled against Shah and Haris Rauf, who both finished with 3-21, while Mohammad Amir, who came out of retirement for the World Cup, grabbed 2-23.

Amir had cautioned it wouldn't be easy for his team's batters at what has so far been a low-scoring T20 tournament ground.

"I think we did well as a

bowling unit, but this is a decent total on this track," Amir said during the innings break. "We need to bat well and sensibly. It's a bit tricky. We need to start well and finish well."

Rishabh Pant, who got dropped twice in top-scoring with 42 off 31, was one of only three India batters to cross the double-figure mark, along with Axar Patel (20) and Sharma (13).

Patel and Pant shared the best partnership of the innings with 39 runs for the third wicket before the middle-order struggled.

India batting great Virat Kohli lasted just three balls. He struck a boundary off Shah's first ball before he mistimed another big drive off the fast bowler and was caught in the covers.

Tricky drop-in pitches with variable bounce at the purpose-built 34,000 capacity stadium have been in focus since the tournament began.

The ICC had to revisit the square of four drop-in pitches after the first two games, but the pitches have given little respite to the batters so far.



Photos by Julio Cortez/Associated Press

Mexico's Julian Quinonez, right, scores against Brazil goalkeeper Allison Becker, left, as the teams put on a high-scoring show Saturday night for the crowd at Kyle Field, with Brazil winning 3-2.

KYLE

From page B1

prevailed 3-2 in the match attended by 85,249 fans, the third-largest crowd in MexTour history and largest ever in Texas. But the game was so much more than that for Bryan College Station and Brazos County, based on the history involved (and beer consumed on a hot summer night).

"It was so hot in here, but we tried to give our best," said Brazil forward Gabriel Martinelli, who also competes for the Premier League's Arsenal. "It was an amazing experience, and I think we deserved the result as well."

Prior to the spirited match that featured two goals in stoppage time, former A&M student Felipe Quevedo enjoyed the festivities in and around a large tent pitched between Reed Arena and Kyle Field.

"It's a party!" Quevedo said in holding his arms wide toward the hundreds of fans enjoying that particular tailgate about an hour before the match. "I had to come back to campus to celebrate my nationality and our favorite sport. It was a no-brainer."

Quevedo's best friend, former University of Houston student Edgar Cruz, said he was looking forward to attending a match in a stadium the size of 102,733-seat Kyle Field.

"First time Mexico has ever played in College Station," said Cruz,



Mexico's Edson Alvarez, left, and Brazil's Andreas Pereira vie for possession in a friendly match that was heated, and not just because of Saturday's weather.

glancing toward Kyle Field. "It's great to have them here."

In the week prior to the match, new A&M president Mark Welsh said the university was testing the waters on such an event to see if A&M will do it again, perhaps as soon as next year. Kyle Field also is hosting a George Strait concert on Saturday, and that festivity is down to standing-room-only tickets in the largest stadium in the state and the Southeastern Conference.

"I'm fired up about both those events, and the other thing I'm fired up about is it gives us a chance to look at a different way of creating a revenue stream and if it's something we want to do again," Welsh said. "We don't know that; this is

our opportunity to find out. Can we do these events and make some extra money that would benefit us, or are these things we don't want to get involved in?"

"We haven't tried it before, so we'll see."

New A&M athletic director Trev Alberts has described A&M's willingness to hold such events in its massive half-billion-dollar venue as a "shifting mindset."

"Across all of college athletics, especially in college football, most of the time you've got an incredible asset sitting there, empty other than seven Saturdays a fall," Alberts said. "All of us in athletics are trying to think about, how do we activate these spaces? ... You have to shift your mindset away from just

doing athletic department events in a really iconic space.

"Let's be honest: This is Kyle Field, and you have to be a little bit careful on what you want to do. ... But I don't think (moving forward) this is going to be outside the norm — not just here but in the rest of college athletics."

Mexico coach Jaime Lozano said afterward he was appreciative of College Station and A&M's willingness to host an international friendly as the teams prepare for the 2024 CONMEBOL Copa America tournament played in the United States starting June 20.

"(This) was a good show with a lot of goals," Lozano said. "We're very thankful to the fans, and we're very thankful to the city."

AROUND SPORTS

Larson grabs win at Sonoma

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

SONOMA, Calif. — **Kyle Larson** celebrated NASCAR approving his participation in the play-offs with his third Cup victory of the season — a Sunday win at his home track.

The victory for Larson, who grew up 80 miles away from Sonoma Raceway in Elk Grove, was his second on the rolling road course in picturesque wine country. It is the fifth win on a road course for NASCAR's 2021 Cup champion and moved him to the top of the current series standings.

Despite his early season dominance, it took until Tuesday of this week for NASCAR to grant Larson the waiver he needed to compete in this year's playoffs because he missed the Coca-Cola 600 last month. Larson was trying to run the Indianapolis 500 and NASCAR's longest race on the same day, but rain in both Indiana and North Carolina ruined the attempt.

Larson led 19 of the 110 laps and passed defending race winner **Martin Truex Jr.** with eight laps remaining to uphold the win in his No. 5 Chevrolet.

Truex was going to finish second in a Toyota for **Joe Gibbs Racing** but ran out of gas before he reached the finish line and was scored 27th.

That gave second to **Michael McDowell** in a Ford for Front Row Motorsports. **Chris Buescher** was third in a Ford for RFK Racing.

Verstappen repeats in Canada: Max Verstappen won the Canadian Grand Prix for the third straight year Sunday at Montreal for the Red Bull star's 60th Formula 1 victory and sixth in nine races this season.

Verstappen finished 3.879 seconds ahead of McLaren's **Lando Norris** in the 70-lap race on the 2.71-mile road course.

Mercedes took the next two spots, with pole-sitter **George Russell** third and seven-time Montreal winner **Lewis Hamilton** fourth.

Power leads Penske sweep: Will Power ended a two-year victory drought by leading Team Penske's domination at Road America on Sunday at Elkhart Lake, Wis.

Power hadn't won an IndyCar race since the Detroit Grand Prix on June 5, 2022.

Indy 500 winner **Josef Newgarden** finished second and **Scott McLaughlin** was third to give Team Penske a sweep of the podium — its first since 2017.

BASKETBALL Maravich's son dies at age 42

Former LSU player **Josh Maravich**, son of late Hall of Fame basketball player **Pete Maravich**, has died at age 42, the university said Saturday. No cause of death has been released.

Josh Maravich was a reserve for LSU in the early 2000s.

His father died in 1988, at age 40, from a heart condition that had gone undetected.

Hall of Famer Walker dies: Chet "the Jet" Walker, a seven-time All-Star forward who helped the Philadelphia 76ers win the 1967 NBA title and later starred for the Chicago Bulls, has died. He was 84.

Walker had career averages of 18.2 points and 7.1 rebounds. He was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 2012.

MISCELLANEOUS SaberCats win seventh in row

Houston posted a second-half shutout for the second consecutive week in a 29-12 victory over RFC Los Angeles in Major League Rugby on Saturday night at SaberCats Stadium. The SaberCats improved to 12-1 with their seventh straight victory, maintaining the best record in MLR.

Giants' Waller retires: New York Giants tight end **Darren Waller**, 31, announced his retirement from playing football on Sunday. In a nearly 18-minute video posted on his YouTube channel, Waller detailed a "very scary" medical situation last November that him hospitalized and later re-evaluating his football career.

FC Dallas fires coach: FC Dallas dismissed coach **Nico Estevez**, who was in his third season with the team. Dallas has gone 3-8-5 this season.

FOR THE RECORD

MLB AT A GLANCE

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
New York	45	21	.682	—	—	8-2	L-2	21-10	24-11
Baltimore	42	22	.656	2	+ 8 ½	7-3	W-3	21-12	21-10
Boston	33	33	.500	12	1 ½	5-5	W-1	14-18	19-15
Toronto	32	33	.492	12 ½	2	6-4	W-2	16-15	16-18
Tampa Bay	31	34	.477	13 ½	3	5-5	L-3	17-21	14-13

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Cleveland	42	22	.656	—	—	6-4	W-2	21-8	21-14
Kansas City	39	27	.591	4	+ 4 ½	5-5	L-1	24-11	15-16
Minnesota	34	31	.523	8 ½	—	4-6	W-1	16-13	18-18
Detroit	32	33	.492	10 ½	2	5-5	W-1	15-17	17-16
Chicago	17	49	.258	26	17 ½	2-8	L-1	12-23	5-26

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Seattle	37	30	.552	—	—	6-4	W-1	21-11	16-19
Texas	31	34	.477	5	3	5-5	W-16	16-17	15-17
Houston	30	36	.455	6 ½	4 ½	6-4	L-1	17-18	13-18
Oakland	26	41	.388	11	9	3-7	L-2	15-20	11-21
Los Angeles	25	40	.385	11	9	4-6	W-1	11-23	14-17

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Philadelphia	45	20	.692	—	—	7-3	L-1	27-10	18-10
Atlanta	35	28	.556	9	+ 4 ½	4-6	L-3	19-12	16-16
Washington	30	35	.462	15	1 ½	4-6	W-3	13-17	17-18
New York	28	36	.438	16 ½	3	6-4	W-1	13-22	15-14
Miami	22	43	.338	23	9 ½	3-7	L-2	12-25	10-18

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Milwaukee	38	27	.585	—	—	6-4	L-1	18-10	20-17
Chicago	32	34	.485	6 ½	—	4-6	W-1	18-13	14-21
Cincinnati	32	34	.485	6 ½	—	8-2	L-1	17-18	15-16
St. Louis	31	33	.484	6 ½	—	4-6	W-1	15-14	16-19
Pittsburgh	31	34	.477	7	½	6-4	L-1	16-17	15-17

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Los Angeles	41	25	.621	—	—	7-3	W-3	21-12	20-13
San Diego	34	35	.493	8 ½	+ ½	4-6	L-1	15-21	19-14
San Francisco	32	34	.485	9	—	3-7	L-1	17-14	15-20
Arizona	31	35	.470	10	1	6-4	W-1	15-16	16-19
Colorado	23	42	.354	17 ½	8 ½	3-7	L-1	13-17	10-25

Saturday's results

American League	National League
Houston 6, Angels 1	Philadelphia 7, Mets 2
Kansas City 8, Seattle 4	Washington 7, Atlanta 3
Toronto 7, Oakland 0	Pittsburgh 4, Minnesota 0
Pittsburgh 4, Minnesota 0	San Francisco 3, Texas 1
San Francisco 3, Texas 1	Cincinnati 4, Cubs 3
Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 0	Colorado 6, St. Louis 5
White Sox 6, Boston 1	Milwaukee 5, Detroit 4
Milwaukee 5, Detroit 4	Harper, Philadelphia, 45; Cronenworth, San Diego, 44;
Cleveland 8, Miami 0	Dodgers 11, Yankees 3
Dodgers 11, Yankees 3	San Diego 13, Arizona 1

Sunday's results

American League	National League
Angels 9, Houston 7	Mets 6, Philadelphia 5
Texas 7, San Francisco 2	Texas 7, San Francisco 2
Detroit 10, Milwaukee 2	Detroit 10, Milwaukee 2
Cleveland 6, Miami 3	Cleveland 6, Miami 3
Baltimore 9, Tampa Bay 2	Washington 8, Atlanta 5
Minnesota 11, Pittsburgh 5 (10)	Cubs 4, Cincinnati 2
Seattle 6, Kansas City 5 (10)	St. Louis 5, Colorado 1
Boston 6, White Sox 4 (10)	Minnesota 11, Pittsburgh 5 (10)
Toronto 6, Oakland 4 (10)	Arizona 9, San Diego 3
Dodgers at Yankees, late	Dodgers at Yankees, late

Monday's games

American League	National League
Baltimore (Burnes 6-2) at Tampa Bay (Peipot 4-2), 5:50 p.m.	
Colorado (Hudson 2-7) at Minnesota (Paddock 4-3), 6:40 p.m.	
Yankees (Rodón 8-2) at Kansas City (Lugo 9-1), 7:10 p.m.	
Toronto (Berrios 5-4) at Milwaukee (Rea 4-2), 7:10 p.m.	
White Sox (Fedde 4-1) at Seattle (Gilbert 3-4), 8:40 p.m.	
Oakland (Estes 2-1) at San Diego (Cease 5-5), 8:40 p.m.	
Houston (Arrighetti 3-5) at San Francisco (Harrison 4-3), 8:45 p.m.	
National League	
Colorado (Hudson 2-7) at Minnesota (Paddock 4-3), 6:40 p.m.	
Toronto (Berrios 5-4) at Milwaukee (Rea 4-2), 7:10 p.m.	
Oakland (Estes 2-1) at San Diego (Cease 5-5), 8:40 p.m.	
Houston (Arrighetti 3-5) at San Francisco (Harrison 4-3), 8:45 p.m.	

MLB NOTEBOOK

COHEN SAYS FANS 'HAVE BEEN THROUGH WORSE'

New York Mets owner Steve Cohen says his team can still turn around its season and fans “have been through worse.”

Cohen praised his front office and manager Carlos Mendoza during a news conference before Sunday's final of the two-game London Series, a day after Philadelphia won the opener 7-2.

The Mets entered Sunday's game against their NL East rival nine games under .500, just over seven weeks from the trade deadline.

Cohen, who bought the team ahead of the 2021 season, interacted with fans during the London trip.

“They came over here because they love the Mets, they care about the Mets,” said Cohen, wearing a Mets cap and blue vest. “They're in good spirits. I was hanging out with them in the pub. We were having a blast. The fans have been through worse. We're trying to break that history. They're great and they're certainly going to be there for the team.”

SCHERZER, COLE REHAB

Rangers pitcher Max Scherzer and Yankees ace Gerrit Cole both took steps to their returns on Sunday.

Cole pitched 4 2/3 innings of one-run ball in his second start for Double-A Somerset, another step toward returning to the New York Yankees' rotation.

Scherzer struck out five while retiring 12 of the 14 batters he faced in his long-delayed second rehab start for Triple-A Round

Rock since offseason surgery for a herniated disk in his lower back.

SOTO OUT AGAIN

Yankees star Juan Soto was out of the starting lineup for the third straight game when New York played its series finale against the Los Angeles Dodgers but could return for a series opener at Kansas City on Monday night.

Soto is being treated for left forearm inflammation. He missed the opening two games of the weekend set.

PROSPECT TO MAKE DEBUT

The Chicago White Sox plan to bring up right-hander Drew Thorpe from Double-A Birmingham to make his major league debut Tuesday night at Seattle.

Thorpe was acquired from San Diego in the Dylan Cease trade in March. He is 7-1 with a 1.35 ERA in 11 starts with Birmingham. He has 56 strikeouts and 17 walks in 60 innings.

SUNDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Julio Rodríguez hit a tiebreaking single in the 10th inning, Cal Raleigh added a two-run single and Seattle held off Kansas City. ... Catcher Luis Torrens turned Nick Castellanos' bases-loaded slow roller in front of the plate into a game-ending double play and the Mets hung on to beat Philadelphia. ... Marcus Semien retaliated from a pitch to the head with a two-run homer, Adolis Garcia stole home and Texas Rangers avoided being swept by San Francisco.

Wire reports

SCOREBOARD

Odds

Home team capitalized

MLB			
Monday			
American League			
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
Baltimore	-164	at TAMPA BAY	+138
N.Y. Yankees	-130	at KANSAS CITY	+110
SEATTLE	-230	Chicago White Sox	+190
Interleague			
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
MINNESOTA	-225	Colorado	+188
Toronto	-112	at MILWAUKEE	-104
SAN DIEGO	-220	Oakland	+184
Houston	-120	at SAN FRANCISCO	+102

Monday	FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
FLORIDA	-137	Edmonton		+114

Auto racing

NASCAR

Cup Series Save Mart 350

Sunday's race
At Sonoma Raceway
Sonoma, Calif.
Lap length: 1.99 miles

- (Start position in parentheses)
- (5) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 110 laps, 48 points.
 - (12) Michael McDowell, Ford, 110, 40.
 - (26) Chris Buescher, Ford, 110, 44.
 - (4) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 110, 40.
 - (9) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 110, 36.
 - (11) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 110, 0.
 - (7) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 110, 39.
 - (2) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 110, 39.
 - (15) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 110, 28.
 - (10) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 110, 31.
 - (17) Corey LaJoie, Chevrolet, 110, 28.
 - (29) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 110, 44.
 - (35) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 110, 29.
 - (7) Daniel Suárez, Chevrolet, 110, 26.
 - (8) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 110, 28.
 - (20) Zane Smith, Chevrolet, 110, 21.
 - (13) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 110, 20.
 - (30) Ryan Preece, Ford, 110, 28.
 - (18) Erik Jones, Toyota, 110, 22.
 - (10) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 110, 17.
 - (1) Joey Logano, Ford, 110, 18.
 - (28) Austin Cindric, Ford, 110, 15.
 - (36) Kaz Grala, Ford, 110, 14.
 - (33) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 110, 13.
 - (25) Harrison Burton, Ford, 110, 13.
 - (19) Noah Gragson, Ford, 110, 11.
 - (27) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 110, 18.
 - (28) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, 109, 9.
 - (37) John H. Nemechek, Toyota, 109, 8.
 - (6) William Byron, Chevrolet, 108, 7.
 - (24) Will Brown, Chevrolet, 107, 6.
 - (32) Josh Berry, Ford, suspension, 95, 5.
 - (37) Justin Haley, Ford, garage, 88, 4.
 - (23) Chase Briscoe, Ford, transmission, 73, 3.
 - (33) Cam Waters, Ford, accident, 66, 2.
 - (16) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, dvp, 39, 1.
 - (37) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, dvp, 16, 1.
 - (25) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, engine, 2, 1.

FL

Canadian Grand Prix

Sunday's race

At Circuit Gilles Villeneuve
Montreal
Lap length: 4.00 kilometers
(Start position in parentheses)

- (2) Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull Racing, 70 laps, 145:547.927, 25 points.
- (3) Lando Norris, Great Britain, McLaren, 70, +3.879 seconds, 18.
- (1) George Russell, Great Britain, Mercedes, 70, +4.317, 15.
- (7) Lewis Hamilton, Great Britain, Mercedes, 70, +4.015, 13.
- (4) Oscar Piastri, Australia, McLaren, 70, +10.199, 10.
- (6) Fernando Alonso, Spain, Aston Martin, 70, +17.510, 8.
- (9) Lance Stroll, Canada, Aston Martin, 70, +23.625, 6.
- (5) Daniel Ricciardo, Australia, Racing Bulls, 70, +28.672, 4.
- (15) Pierre Gasly, France, Alpine, 70, +30.021, 2.
- (16) Esteban Ocon, France, Alpine, 70, +30.313, 1.
- (17) Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, Haas, 70, +30.824, 0.
- (4) Kevin Magnussen, Denmark, Haas, 70, +31.253, 0.
- (19) Valtteri Bottas, Finland, KICK Sauber, 70, +40.487, 0.
- (8) Yuki Tsunoda, Japan, Racing Bulls, 70, +52.694, 0.
- (10) Guanyu Zhou, China, KICK Sauber, 69, +1 lap, 0.
- (12) Carlos Sainz Jr., Spain, Ferrari, did not finish, 52, 0.
- (17) Alexander Albon, Thailand, Williams, did not finish, 52, 0.
- (16) Sergio Perez, Mexico, Red Bull Racing, did not finish, 51, 0.
- (11) Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Ferrari, did not finish, 40, 0.
- (13) Logan Sargeant, USA, Williams, did not finish, 23, 0.

Baseball

Triple-A Pacific Coast League				
East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Sugar Land (Houston)	40	22	.645	—
Oklahoma City (L.A. Dodgers)	36	26	.581	4
Round Rock (Texas)	31	30	.508	8 ½
El Paso (San Diego)	26	36	.419	14
Albuquerque (Colorado)	18	44	.290	22
West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Sacramento (San Francisco)	38	24	.613	2
Tacoma (Seattle)	34	28	.548	6
Las Vegas (Oakland)	32	30	.516	8
Reno (Arizona)	29	33	.468	11
Salt Lake (L.A. Angels)	25	36	.410	14 ½

Saturday's results
Oklahoma City 10, Round Rock 9
El Paso 17, Las Vegas 16
Sugar Land 8, Salt Lake 5
Tacoma 9, Reno 6
Albuquerque 7, Sacramento 4

Sunday's results
Sugar Land 8, Salt Lake 4
Round Rock 3, Oklahoma City 1
Sacramento 7, Albuquerque 0
Las Vegas at El Paso, late
Reno at Tacoma, late

Monday's games
No games scheduled
Tuesday's games
Oklahoma City at Sugar Land, 7:05 p.m.
Tacoma at Round Rock, 7:15 p.m.
El Paso at Albuquerque, 7:35 p.m.
Sacramento at Reno, 8:35 p.m.
Salt Lake at Las Vegas, 9:05 p.m.

Sacramento 7, Albuquerque 0
Las Vegas at El Paso, late
Reno at Tacoma, late
Monday's games

W: Greene (5-1); L: MacGregor (0-4).
Sugar Land - Gordon (3), VanWey (5), Green (6), King (8), Coleman (9), Salt Lake - Kerry (6), MacGregor (7), Zuniga (8), Marte (9)

Saturday's game							
Space Cowboys 8, Bees 4							
Sugar Land	002	110	202	—	8	12	2
Salt Lake	101	110	000	—	4	10	3

W: Blubaugh (4-2); L: Daniel (3-4).
Sugar Land - Blubaugh (5), Mushinski (6), Tamarez (7), Contreras (8), Suero (9), Salt Lake - Daniel (5), Kolarek (5), Crouse (6), Yovan (7), Garrett (8), Shaw (9).

Saturday's game					
Space Cowboys 8, Bees 5					
Space Cowboys 8, Bees 5					

RUNS: Witt, Kansas City, 56; Henderson, Baltimore, 52; J.Ramirez, Cleveland, 50; Judge, New York, 49; Soto, New York, 48; Semien, Texas, 48; Volpe, New York, 47; Garcia, Kansas City, 43; Greene, Detroit, 43; Ja.Duran, Boston, 42; K.Tucker, Houston, 42.

RBI: J.Ramirez, Cleveland, 62; Judge, New York, 57; Soto, New York, 53; Rutschman, Baltimore, 49; J.Naylor, Cleveland, 47; Witt, Kansas City, 47; Henderson, Baltimore, 45; Pasquantino, Kansas City, 43; Perez, Kansas City, 42; Rios, Oakland, 40; K.Tucker, Houston, 40; A.Garcia, Texas, 40.

HITS: Witt, Kansas City, 85; Altuve, Houston, 80; Rutschman, Baltimore, 78; Peña, Houston, 76; Soto, New York, 76; Volpe, New York, 76; Alvarez, Houston, 73; Guerrero, Toronto, 73; Ja.Duran, Boston, 71; Ju.Rodriguez, Seattle, 71.

HOME RUNS: Judge, New York, 23; Henderson, Baltimore, 20; K.Tucker, Houston, 19; J.Ramirez, Cleveland, 18; Soto, New York, 17; J.Naylor, Cleveland, 16; Stanton, New York, 15; Santander, Baltimore, 14; 6 tied at 13.

STOLEN BASES: Caballero, Tampa Bay, 21; Witt, Kansas City, 19; Renfelo, Los Angeles, 17; Ja.Duran, Boston, 15; Garcia, Kansas City, 15; Ju.Rodriguez, Seattle, 14; D.Blanco, Kansas City, 13; D.Hamilton, Kansas City, 13; Mullins, Baltimore, 13; Volpe, New York, 12.

PITCHING: Lugo, Kansas City, 9-1; Skubal, Detroit, 8-1; Gai, New York, 8-1; Rodón, New York, 8-2; Rodriguez, Baltimore, 7-2; Burnes, Baltimore, 6-2; Irvin, Baltimore, 6-2;

ON THE AIR

Television

MLB	Baltimore at Tampa Bay	FS1	5:30 p.m.
MLB	Chicago White Sox at Seattle	MLB	8:30 p.m.
MLB	Astros at San Francisco	SCHN	8:30 p.m.

NCAA baseball	Super regional: Oregon St. at Kentucky*	TBD	TBD
NCAA baseball	Super regional: North Carolina St. at Georgia	TBD	TBD

NCAA baseball	Super regional: Oregon at Texas A&M*	TBD	TBD
NHL	Stanley Cup Final: Edmonton at Florida (Game 2)	ABC	7 p.m.

Soccer	Czech Republic vs. North Macedonia	FS2	10:50 a.m.
Soccer	Iceland vs. Netherlands	FS2	1:30 p.m.

Soccer	The Tournament: Final	ESPN	7:30 p.m.
Soccer (w)	The Tournament: Final	ESPN	6 p.m.
Softball	Athletes Unlimited	ESPN	5 p.m.
		ESPN	7:30 p.m.

Tennis	ATP-WTA: Rosmalen Grass Court	Tennis	4 a.m.
Tennis	ATP: Stuttgart Open	Tennis	4 a.m.
Tennis	WTA: Nottingham Open	Tennis	4 a.m.

WNBA	Indiana at Connecticut	NBA	6 p.m.
* if necessary			

Radio

MLB	Astros at San Francisco In Spanish	740 AM, 790 AM 93.3 FM, 1010 AM	8:30 p.m.
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Enterprise project draws safety issues

Oil terminal will allow tankers too close, some say

By James Osborne
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Thirty miles off the Texas coast, Enterprise Products is getting ready to move ahead on a deepwater oil export terminal that once complete would allow two supertankers measuring 1,000 feet in

length to load up with crude simultaneously. Similar facilities are in operation around the world, including one off the coast of Louisiana, to service ships too large to navigate land-based ports like those in Houston and Corpus Christie. But Enterprise's multibillion-dollar Sea Port Oil Terminal project, which the Biden administration cleared to move ahead on construction in April, has a design feature out of line with current maritime standards. Tankers will moor far closer

to the terminal than other facilities of its kind, increasing the risk of a cataclysmic accident, according to maritime and engineering experts who spoke to the Chronicle. On a typical day, the two-thirds of a mile between SPOT and its tanker mooring would not be a problem. But if a sudden squall were to come across the Gulf, like one that capsized the Seacorp Power ship in 2022, and knock a tanker off its mooring, there potentially wouldn't be sufficient time for the ship to avoid crashing into

the SPOT terminal. A 500,000-ton ship striking the terminal, which is to be raised above the Gulf's waters on a set of steel pilings stretching from the sea floor, would likely result in a massive oil spill and potentially kill those manning the terminal, said Lincoln Stroh, a former deputy director with the U.S. Coast Guard who serves as chairman of the National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee, which advises the Department of Homeland Security. "The worst case is the vessel is

weather-vaning close to the platform and then a squall comes through and blows the vessel against the platform and knocks it over," he said. "It'll not only endanger the people but it'll break the pipe carrying the oil. That platform is a very soft target." A spokesman for Enterprise, the Houston-based corporation that operates more than 50,000 miles of oil and gas pipelines across the country, declined to make executives available or provide comment for this story.

Safety continues on B9



Jill Karnicki/Staff photographer

Battleship Texas sits last month near Pier 21 in Galveston. The ship, one of the last remaining vessels that survived both World Wars I and II, is undergoing repairs.

Battle over waterfront view

Galveston restaurant says possible dock site for famed ship would kill business

By Yvette Orozco
STAFF WRITER

Battleship Texas could soon regain its status as a tourist attraction, but managers at a Galveston seafood restaurant say it could come at the expense of their waterfront view. The ship is one of the last remaining vessels that survived both World War I and II, and it has been through multimillion-dollar renovations and restorations over several years, plus a move from its previous home at the San Jacinto Battleground State

Historic Site to the Port of Galveston. Leaders of Galveston Wharves, a public entity, have been negotiating since 2023 with Landry's Inc. and the Battleship Texas Foundation over a proposed deal that would dock the battleship at Pier 19, where the three entities would maintain the ship's operations as a museum and tourist fixture, said Rodger E. Rees, director and CEO of Galveston Wharves. Landry's has two restaurants and a hotel at Pier 21, near the proposed location. Derrick Gutierrez, manager of operations for Katie's Seafood Restaurant at Pier

19, says the deal would kill business by blocking the view of the water from Katie's. In a Facebook post, Gutierrez said it's unfair to benefit Landry's at the expense of Katie's Seafood. He also thinks it's dangerous to put the battleship in a permanent spot in the channel without a hurricane evacuation plan in place. Gutierrez was not available for an interview. Rees said the Wharves board doesn't deny Gutierrez's concerns and understands the debate over whether the poten-

tial economic boon would outweigh any possible detriment to individual businesses. "You're looking at a four or five-story building between (Katie's Seafood) and the water, so it would be right in their face," Rees said. One issue yet to be settled is how to put an insurance policy or contingency fund in place if something catastrophic were to occur once the ship is docked. Rees said he has spoken directly with Gutierrez and others who suggest the ship

Battleship continues on B9

This new Aston Martin tickles the fancy with top speed near 200 mph

It's a rare accomplishment when you can market a vehicle to financial success through a single pop culture character. It worked for Pontiac in 1977, when Burt Reynolds drove a black Trans Am, and Vin Diesel's Dom Toretto has played a part in moving Dodge Chargers off the lot, but none can hold a candle to the lifestyle fantasy that James Bond



Jesus Garcia
BEHIND THE WHEEL



Jesus R. Garcia/Contributor

The 2024 DBX has a push button gear selection in the center of the dashboard. The 2025 model is redesigned.

Jones seeks liquidation to help pay part of \$1.5B Sandy Hook settlement

By Dave Collins
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones is seeking court permission to convert his personal bankruptcy reorganization to a liquidation, which would lead to a sell-off of a large portion of his assets to help pay some of the \$1.5 billion he owes relatives of victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Jones and his media company, Free Speech Systems, both filed for bankruptcy reorganization after the Sandy Hook fami-



Jones

lies won lawsuits against him for his repeatedly calling the 2012 shooting that killed 20 first-graders and six educators in Newtown, Conn., a hoax on his Infowars programs. But Jones and the Sandy Hook families have been unable to agree on how to resolve the cases, leading to Jones filing a motion Wednesday in U.S.

Jones continues on B9

Business Editor Jonathan Diamond: Jonathan.Diamond@houstonchronicle.com

SAFETY

From page B8

Enterprise filed an application for SPOT in 2019 with the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration. After a three-year review the agency signed off on the design, including the two-thirds of a mile distance between the platform and the tanker moorings, enlisting input from more than a dozen federal agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard.

Two months before that decision came down, the American Bureau of Shipping, which certifies U.S. ports, filed a comment on SPOT's docket, warning that it was updating its standards for mooring systems, which may, "impact this, and other deepwater port permit applicants' projects."

Under rules that would go into effect in January 2023, terminals in offshore waters would need to "substantially" increase the standard 0.58 mile distance between a mooring and any stationary object to account for "the prevailing environment (wind, waves, current, squalls, microbursts, rotary currents, and shallow water effect)," wrote the firm.

Deepwater terminals were already largely following that guidance. The Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, for instance, a joint venture of Shell, Valero and Marathon Petroleum, which began operation in 2018, maintains a 1.3 mile distance from its tanker mooring.

However, the Maritime Administration decided not to apply the new standard to SPOT, explaining that the Coast Guard had conducted its own risk analysis of "potential vessel collision scenarios, including vessel strike of the manned platform."

The Maritime Administration referred questions to the Coast Guard, which said it would consider responding to a request for comment.

For years a small group of maritime consultants, some of whom are connected to a rival deepwater oil export projects, have campaigned to force Enterprise to adjust its design, enlisting prominent ship captains and former Coast Guard leadership to make their case.

Sentinel Midstream, which is developing another deepwater terminal, Texas GulfLink, commissioned the more than 250-year-old marine certification firm Lloyd's Register in London to determine the minimum distance a deepwater port in the northern Gulf of Mexico should maintain for moorings. It reported back last summer and advised a distance of 1.2 miles for ports accepting supertankers, explaining, "breakaways are real: They have happened and frequently enough that they cannot



Ali Mohammadi/Bloomberg file photo

Experts and advisers say Enterprise's two-third mile mooring for supertankers, which measure more than 1,000 feet in length, isn't enough room to maneuver during a storm or other emergency, putting the Sea Port Oil Terminal in danger.

be explained away."

"The other certifying agencies, they're all saying more or less the same thing," said Dan Harris, a veteran ship's captain who worked on LOOP and is now director of marine operations for Sentinel. "I can't speak for the entire world, but I've researched it a lot, and I couldn't find any deep water ports taking (supertankers) that maintain as small a maneuvering area as SPOT. In Australia, off the western coast, there's a terminal with a similar distance but they only accept smaller ships, a third the weight of a (supertanker)."

At the root of Enterprise's unique design, Harris said, are new federal environmental requirements that require offshore terminals to capture the emissions vented while tankers are filling up with crude — something that was not required when LOOP was built. While Texas GulfLink is planning to have specialized ships pull up along the tankers to capture their emissions, Enterprise is opting to run a more than 3,000-foot-long hose from the terminal to the tankers and lengthening

that another couple thousand feet would likely render the system inoperable, Harris said.

They could switch to a different venting system, but that would likely require an additional environmental review, which is "going to push them back a year and a half," Harris said.

Sentinel has a clear motivation to delay SPOT's progress.

They and other firms developing deepwater oil terminals in the Gulf, including Houston's Phillips 66 and Dallas-based Energy Transfer, are racing to catch up with Enterprise. Once operational, SPOT would be able to load 2 million barrels of crude per day on supertankers — more than all the oil produced in Texas each day.

Once that happens, SPOT would likely, "crowd out the other projects," with not enough tanker demand for more than one new deep water terminal in the Gulf, said Dylan White, an analyst with research firm Wood Mackenzie.

Among maritime experts, opinions on SPOT's safety protocols are mixed. Augusta Roth,

a veteran captain and professor of navigation at Texas A&M's Maritime Academy, said that safety standards were constantly updating and that to require a developer to meet rules that were not in place while they were designing the project was unreasonable.

"If something got approved last year and then the rules change and you require them to make changes, you'd never make progress. It's basic common sense," she said. "There's a lot of naysayers who are ex-Coast Guard out there."

However, Hari Balasubramanian, an ocean engineering professor at the State University of New York's Maritime College, said the safety concerns were legitimate, explaining that once a tanker breaks off its mooring in a storm, it's going to take time to regain control.

"Two-thirds of a mile might seem quite a big area, but it will shrink very quickly," he said. "These are very sluggish ships designed to carry a large quantity of cargo, not for agility in maneuvering."

The questions around the

port's design come as Enterprise is trying to sign customers overseas to long-term contracts for SPOT's oil, with executives telling analysts in April they planned to make a final investment decision by the end of the year.

But they still have some hurdles to clear, including a final certification from the U.S. Coast Guard or one of the outside firms they work with, such as ABS or Lloyd's, which could force SPOT to accept smaller ships or make other changes to reduce the risk of a collision from a breakaway tanker.

But critics worry that so much time and money have been invested, nobody at the certifying firms or the Coast Guard will be willing to stop the project from going ahead as designed. Earlier this week, Stroh, the adviser to Homeland Security, wrote a letter to Coast Guard Commandant Linda Fagan, urging her to "apply leadership and pressure to address this risk now."

"I don't know if the commandment knows what's going on below her," Stroh said in an interview.

JONES

From page B8

Bankruptcy Court in Houston asking a judge to convert his personal case from a Chapter 11 reorganization to a Chapter 7 liquidation.

"The Debtor does not anticipate that a resolution may be reached with the other parties in interest sufficient to confirm a chapter 11 plan of reorganization," Jones' filing said. "Given that there is no reasonable prospect of a successful reorganization, remaining in chapter 11 would incur additional administrative expenses without concomitant benefit to the Debtor's estate."

Jones' bankruptcy lawyers did not immediately reply to Friday messages seeking comment.

Christopher Mattei, a lawyer for the families, said in a statement that "Alex Jones has hurt so many people. The Connecticut families have fought for

years to hold him responsible no matter the cost and at great personal peril. Their steadfast focus on meaningful accountability, and not just money, is what has now brought him to the brink of justice in the way that matters most."

The Sandy Hook families, meanwhile, are asking the same judge to convert Free Speech Systems' case from a reorganization to a liquidation.

Judge Christopher Lopez has scheduled a June 14 hearing in Houston to decide on how to resolve the cases.

Jones' lawyers have said that the company's case also appeared to be headed toward a liquidation, or it could be withdrawn.

Liquidation could mean that Jones would have to sell most of what he owns, including his company and its assets, but could keep his home and other personal belongings that are exempt from bankruptcy liquidation. Proceeds would go to his

creditors, including the Sandy Hook families.

If Free Speech Systems' case is withdrawn, the company would return to the same position it was in after the \$1.5 billion was awarded in the lawsuits and it would send efforts to collect the damages back to the state courts in Texas and Connecticut where the verdicts were reached.

Jones already has moved to sell some of his personal assets to pay creditors, including his Texas ranch worth around \$2.8 million.

But a liquidation of Jones' and his company's assets would raise only a fraction of what he owes the Sandy Hook families.

According to the most recent financial statements filed in the bankruptcy court, Jones personally has about \$9 million in assets, including his \$2.6 million Austin-area home in Texas and other real estate. He listed his living expenses at about \$69,000 for April alone, including about \$16,500 for expenses on his

home, including maintenance, housekeeping and insurance.

Infowars' parent company, Free Speech Systems, which employs 44 people, had nearly \$4 million in cash on-hand at the end of April. The business made nearly \$3.2 million in April, including from selling the dietary supplements, clothing and other items that Jones promotes on his show, while listing \$1.9 million in expenses.

Last weekend, Jones warned on his show that his company faced an imminent shutdown because of what he called a conspiracy by the government and Democrats related to his bankruptcy cases. He urged his supporters to form a human chain around his Austin studio to prevent a takeover, and said he was sleeping in the studio to guard against a shutdown — which didn't happen.

Lopez, the judge, ruled Monday that Jones could keep operating until June 14, when decisions on potential liquidations

are expected.

Jones has said on his show that even if Free Speech Systems and Infowars are sold off, he could resume his broadcasts in some other fashion.

Jones had offered a bankruptcy reorganization plan that would have let him keep operating Free Speech Systems and Infowars while paying the Sandy Hook families a minimum total of \$55 million over 10 years. Before that proposal, the families had offered to settle their debt for a minimum of \$85 million.

The families of many, but not all, of the Sandy Hook victims sued Jones and won the two trials in Connecticut and Texas.

The relatives said they were traumatized by Jones' comments and the actions of his followers. They testified at the trials about being harassed and threatened by Jones' believers, some of whom confronted the grieving families in person saying the shooting never happened and their children never existed.

BATTLESHIP

From page B8

should be docked in front of Landry's properties, which are owned by Tilman J. Fertitta, the billionaire businessman who also owns the Houston Rockets, along with the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casinos.

"They're all saying 'Why don't you go put it in front of his restaurant?'"

According to Rees, Galveston-born Fertitta has a memorandum

of understanding with the Battleship Foundation that if the ship moves near Pier 21, Landry's Inc. will manage it from a tourism standpoint.

Dash Kohlhausen, Landry's deputy general counsel, sent the following statement to the Houston Chronicle:

"While the proposed location for the historic Battleship Texas may block some of the views of Landry's harbor front properties Willie G's, Harbor House, etc., and a few others, it will also attract more than a million visitors

a year to the area," he said.

"This will be a boon for all of us and the island's entire tourism industry."

More than 1,685 signatures so far have been collected on a petition started by Gutierrez, which included a plea for the board to move the battleship to Seawolf Park Naval Museum on Pelican Island outside of downtown Galveston, where it would be docked on dry land alongside historic aircraft.

"Our goal is to be an integrated partner with all parties involved

and continue to elevate the island's historic tourism industry," Matt Pham, vice president of development for the Battleship Texas Foundation, said in a statement. "The Battleship Texas has already received incredible interest from the state, region and throughout the country with broad support for our effort across the island."

Rees said that as a public entity, the Wharves Board is listening to the concerns of Gutierrez and others, and the foundation is focused on moving the ship where

it will have the best visibility.

"It's an unknown, so I understand their (Katie's Seafood) position," Rees said.

The ship, which would be scheduled to be relocated by late 2025, would sit approximately 75 yards from Katie's Seafood, a restaurant that has received several awards for its waterfront views since it opened five years ago.

From the foundation's standpoint, "it's not the view, it's what the ship represents," Rees said. "It's going to be a tough decision for the board to make."

Court blocks ruling on religious liberty training

By Kevin McGill
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — An appeals court has blocked a federal judge's order that three attorneys for Southwest Airlines get religious liberty training from a conservative advocacy group, saying the judge likely exceeded his authority.

Three judges with the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans put the training order on hold Friday while appeals are pursued.

The order is an outgrowth of a case in which a Southwest flight attendant, Charlene Carter, sued the airline and her union after she was fired for sending graphic anti-abortion material and disparaging messages to a union leader and fellow employee. Carter won an \$800,000 court award, also the subject of an appeal, after her attorneys argued that she was terminated for her religious beliefs.

The religious training requirement was part of a contempt order against the airline issued by U.S. District Judge Brantley Starr. After Carter won a jury verdict, Starr ordered the airline to tell flight at-

tendants that under federal law, it “may not discriminate against Southwest flight attendants for their religious practices and beliefs.”

Instead, the Dallas-based airline told employees that it “does not discriminate” and told flight attendants to follow the airline policy it cited in firing Carter.

In August, Starr found Southwest in contempt for the way it explained the case to flight attendants. He ordered Southwest to pay Carter's most recent legal costs and dictated a statement for Southwest to relay to employees. He ordered the three lawyers to complete at least eight hours of religious liberty training from the Alliance Defending Freedom, which offers training on compliance with federal law prohibiting religious discrimination in the workplace.

The conservative group has played a high-profile role in multiple legal fights. They include defending a baker and a website designer who didn't want to work on same-sex marriage projects, efforts to limit transgender rights and a challenge to longstanding federal approval of a medication used in the most common way to end

a pregnancy.

Arguments in the appeal were heard Monday. The arguments concentrated on Carter's firing and did not deal with the contempt order. However, the airline said in briefs that the contempt order violated its free speech rights and should be overturned.

“At bottom, it appears that the district court sought, at least in part, to punish Southwest for what the district court viewed as conduct flouting its holding,” the appellate court ruling said. “But its punitive sanctions likely exceed the scope of the court's civil-contempt authority.”

Still pending is the decision on the effort by Southwest and the flight attendants union to reverse the \$800,000 judgment in Carter's favor. The panel has given no indication when it will rule.

Starr was nominated to the federal district court bench by former President Donald Trump.

The 5th Circuit judges on the panel included Trump nominees Cory Wilson and Kurt Engelhardt, along with Edith Brown Clement, nominated by former President George W. Bush.

Following its deal for NFL games, will Netflix go after live news shows?

By Stephen Battaglio
LOS ANGELES TIMES

When Netflix announced last month that it had acquired the rights to two NFL football games to stream on Christmas Day, TV news agents were buzzing.

If the streaming behemoth is getting into sports — after saying for so long that it wouldn't — could live news shows be far behind as the streaming giant based in Los Gatos, Calif., diversifies its programming roster?

Think of the ease of a button on the Netflix home screen that could take users to a breaking story, such as last month's guilty verdict in former President Donald Trump's hush money trial in New York.

Or consider how Netflix, which has 270 million users worldwide, could send out an alert to get viewers to watch coverage of the State of the Union address or a presidential debate.

Nielsen data for April shows that Netflix is the second most-watched source for television viewing, accounting for 7.6% of all TV consumption, behind YouTube's 9.6%.

Live news would give users another reason to log in at a time when they are looking to consoli-

date the number of streaming services they pay for each month.

Also, it would expand on what Netflix is doing with live broadcasts in other genres, such as the company's star-studded “The Roast of Tom Brady” and the Netflix Slam tennis tournament.

Last year, Netflix added a subscriber tier in which users who sit through sponsor messages pay a lower monthly fee.

Live content such as the NFL and the WWE's weekly “Raw” show (coming to Netflix next year) will have commercials, bringing Netflix ad revenue in addition to subscriber fees.

The company demonstrated its commitment to capturing a share of the TV ad market with its first glitzy, in-person, upfront sales presentation in New York last month.

Live news is an effective way to get audiences to sit through ads.

The company has internally discussed opportunities in news, just as it has for many formats on traditional TV that attract audiences. But when asked about any plans along those lines, a Netflix representative cited a recent interview with CEO Ted Sarandos in which he said the platform has no plans to pursue breaking news.

GARCIA

From page B8

created for Aston Martin, a brand symbolic of top-shelf luxury, exotic grand tours and shaken martinis, dating to 1962.

In 2020, Aston Martin debuted the DBX, its first SUV and first all-wheel-drive vehicle with off-road capability. Since then, the brand celebrated its 100th birthday in 2023, and the DBX has continued to be a high-dollar option for those looking for an ultra-luxurious, grand touring supercar that can carry five people with luggage.

When Aston Martin asked if I wanted to take the latest DBX707 out for a spin, I thought it was a cruel prank. My disbelief continued until the weighted key fob dropped into my hand. Then I saw the price tag, and the butterflies in my stomach were instantly engulfed in an inferno of acid reflux.

At nearly \$300,000 (with options), this is the most expensive vehicle I've been entrusted to operate for a week. On the first day of the road test, I was in a cold sweat on a hot Texas day, worrying about the care of the DBX707, knowing that my liability-only car insurance policy was on the line if serious harm came to this elegant machine.

But luxury is unsurprisingly easy to get accustomed to, like acclimating to a heated pool. After the first day, I had my bearings and focused on the SUV's outstanding performance, alluring interior cabin and relishing the envious stares from BMW drivers.

Fun fact: The DBX has the largest grille ever fitted on an Aston Martin, bearing the wide grin of someone trying to sell you a timeshare. In other parts of the world, the SUV is marketed as a full-size model, but for our value-sized standards, it's considered a mid-size. The sculpted, slim-fit exterior styling gives it an athletic aesthetic that looks smaller than other high-performance SUVs. Complete with all the cues of a go-faster product, such as a duck-tail roof spoiler that tips the swooping roofline like a freshly combed pompadour.

Dressed in the optional Racing Line green paint (\$8,400), it acted as a lasso that captured people's attention and pulled tight to hold it. The lovely shade of green was com-



Jesus R. Garcia/Contributor

The Aston Martin GBX707 as tested is priced at almost \$290,000. Twin-turbocharged 4.0L V8 power produces the equivalent of 697 horsepower, which means zero to 60 in 3.1 seconds and top speed of 193 mph.

plemented by yellow-painted carbon ceramic brake calipers (\$1,800) tucked behind the up-graded 23-inch forged satin black/diamond-turned wheels (\$5,900). However, like other sport utility vehicles crafted by supercar OEMs, the DBX707 looks like an Aston Martin coupe stretched to fit the dimensions of an SUV.

Inside, the interior came appointed in duotone upholstery (\$8,400) with a Q Special green leather (\$6,500). The steering wheel comes wrapped in a mix of leather and Alcantara (\$1,000) and features a 12-inch digital instrument cluster and a 10.2-inch infotainment screen in the center. It's important to note that the 2025 model has a redesigned interior layout compared to the 2024 model shown.

The decision to redo the interior cabin came straight from the CEO after the media and customers complained about the outdated and quirky layout. For starters, the 2024 DBX has a push button gear selection located on top of the infotainment screen in the center of the dashboard. So, to select drive, park or reverse you must extend your arm and reach out to press a button.

Moreover, the infotainment screen is not touch-sensitive. It can only be controlled using buttons on the steering wheel, a rotary knob on the center

console, or a small touchpad located behind the knob. Three methods to navigate one screen and its still awkward to use. For 2025, Aston Martin did away with the dash-mounted push button gears for a more user-friendly center console shift lever, redesigned dashboard, new steering wheel, and upgraded software. Plus, there's an option for a 23-speaker Bowers & Wilkins sound system.

The 707 attached to the DBX name stands for its Mercedes-AMG derived twin-turbocharged 4.0L V8 power output. If you use PS or PferdeStarke, the metric unit for measuring horsepower, it comes out to 707 hp, which is equivalent to 697 hp here in the United States. DBX707 rolls off the tongue smoother than DBX697. Math aside, this means zero to 60 in 3.1 seconds and enough V8 muscle to reach a top

speed of 193 mph.

The best thing about the DBX707 is how it vocalizes its acceleration through a set of dual double-barrel exhaust system that can be amplified by pushing a little button on the console labeled with an icon of an exhaust tip. Put your foot in it, and this thing unleashes a Barry White baritone rumble that'll stir the blood into an adrenaline frenzy.

When you add an

ASTON MARTIN DBX707

Engine: Twin-turbocharged 4-liter V8
Transmission: 9-speed automatic
0 to 60: 3.9 Seconds
Starting price: \$242,000
Price as shown: \$285,886

adaptive air suspension, an all-wheel drive system with an active transfer case, a 9-speed automatic transmission and massive carbon ceramic brakes, you get a super SUV that can talk the talk and walk the walk when it comes to dynamic driving characteristics. If you're curious about fuel economy, it averages 17 mpg using only the finest premium fuel.

With a starting price of a quarter million, the Aston Martin DBX707 is not intended to be a reasonable purchase. However, if you're in a fortunate position and want a super family hauler that stands out through exclusivity and powered by proven German engineering, the DBX707 will tick all your boxes.

LIFE TRIBUTES

Mansker, Robert

ROBERT MANSKER
01/29/1941 - 05/07/2024

Robert Thomas Mansker died peacefully from cancer in the Goodwin House, Bailey's Crossroads, Hospice on May 7. He is survived by his spouse, Randy Butler, sister Jackie Oncken, niece Leah Johnson, her two children Nathan and Ava, and cousins.

Born in Houston, Texas, of A.J. and Annie Mae Mansker, Bob attended Schreiner University. After graduating from Schreiner University, he went on to Texas A&M University at Commerce, where he attained his doctorate in education. He taught at Texas A&M for a time after receiving his Ph.D.

In 1979 Bob accepted the position of Press Secretary on the Congressional Staff of Rep. Martin Frost (Texas). He then became the Democrat Staff Director for the Joint Committee on Printing. He was a Committee Volunteer for the U.S. Senate Federal Credit Union. In 1998 he was appointed as the Deputy Public Printer where he served until his retirement in 2003. The Government Printing Office is responsible for the Congressional Record and a host of other publications.

Bob's political interest began as a preteen on summer break. He routinely at-

tended Houston City Council meetings. On more than one occasion the mayor invited "Tommy" (as he was known then) to join the Council lunch table.

He was a Texas liberal who held office in both high school and college student government associations. He ran for the Texas House of Representatives. He was an active member of the Texas State Society.

He met the love of his life, Randy, in the 1990s and they began a long-distance relationship that led them to a mutual commitment and buying a home in Fairfax County. Men of faith, they became members of Rock Spring Congregational Church in Arlington. They were drawn to the congregation for the church's open and affirming welcome to the LGBTQ+ community. Bob joined Randy in volunteering at Arlington Food Assistance Center through Rock Spring Church until his health prevented him from continuing. Bob also participated in the Church's card ministry. Bob and Randy were married in the Rock Spring sanctuary in December 2021.

Bob was larger than life, physically, intellectually, and



emotionally. Friends recall his warmth, wry humor, belly laughs, and his keen mind. He was an avid duplicate bridge player, attaining the rank of Life Master of Duplicate Bridge. In that capacity, he gave lectures on bridge playing and facilitated duplicate bridge playing on sea cruises. As a young adult, he enjoyed league bowling.

He and Randy loved beagles, owning three of them. Enjoying the theater, they also volunteered at Arena Stage for several years. Bob supported the Fairfax County Office of Elections as Chief Election Officer with Randy as an Election Officer at their home precinct, Graham Greenway, in over 30 special, primary, and general elections. Locally, he was the parliamentarian of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee for several years. Further,

Bob served on the Fairfax County Board of Equalization for 17 years.

A viewing will be held June 18, at Old Town Funeral Choices, 1205 Belle Haven Rd., Alexandria, from noon to 2:00 p.m. Following the viewing, the burial will take place at National Memorial Park, 7482 Lee Highway, Fairfax, at 3:00 p.m.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held at Rock Spring Congregational Church at 10:30 a.m. on June 19, with reception to follow. (5010 Little Falls Rd., Arlington, VA) The service will be livestreamed at <https://www.rockspringucc.org/worship-livestream/>

Contributions in Bob's memory may be made to Schreiner University, Kerrville, TX.

**BROOKSIDE
MEMORIAL PARK**

Sec – SEC46
Lot-210 SP-4 \$10K

Please call
281-918-6985

WEATHER

HOUSTON'S SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

92
74

TODAY
Humid with a thunderstorm in spots

90
75

TUESDAY
Humid with a thunderstorm in spots

89
75

WEDNESDAY
Humid; a stray afternoon t-storm

92
75

THURSDAY
Mostly sunny

94
76

FRIDAY
Plenty of sunshine

94
77

SATURDAY
Plenty of sun

93
80

SUNDAY
Partly sunny, a couple of t-storms

AccuWeather | Go to AccuWeather.com

METRO AREA OUTLOOK

TODAY: Clouds and sun with a thunderstorm in parts of the area; humid. High 89 to 94. Winds northeast 4-8 mph.
TONIGHT: Patchy clouds and humid. Low 71 to 76. Winds east-northeast 4-8 mph.

AIR QUALITY

Today's forecast for the entire metro area by the TCEQ:



Ozone watch

- Good

Moderate

Unhealthy for sensitive groups

Unhealthy

Very unhealthy

Hazardous
- Unhealthy

Very unhealthy

Hazardous

POLLEN AND MOLD

Yesterday's readings by the Houston Health Department:

	Count per cubic meter of air
Tree pollen	None
Weed pollen	Low
Grass pollen	Low
Mold spores	Low

- Low

Medium

Heavy

Extremely heavy

Note: No measurements on weekends; charts in Sunday and Monday papers reflect forecast ratings from the previous Friday.

COMFORT INDEX

The comfort index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

Today	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
4	4	7	5	4	5

UV TODAY

Values indicate the exposure to the sun's Ultraviolet rays.

8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.
2	5	11	10	5	2

- 0-2, Low

3-5, Moderate

6-7, High

8-10, Very high

11+, Extreme

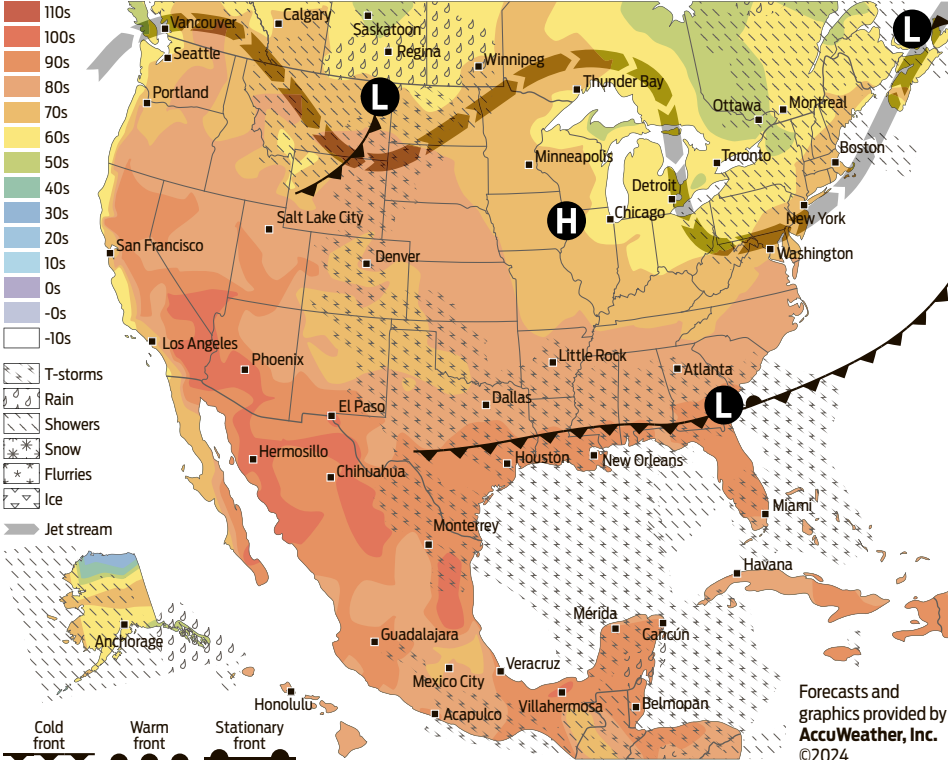
SUN AND MOON



Sunset tonight 8:22 p.m.
Sunrise Tuesday 6:20 a.m.
Moonrise today 10:07 a.m.
Moonset today none

NORTH AMERICA TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



INTERNATIONAL

	Today	Tue.
Africa		
Cairo	97/76/s	99/76/s
Cape Town	79/59/s	70/56/pc
Casablanca	75/68/pc	73/64/sh
Dakar	84/75/s	85/76/pc
Johannesburg	60/37/s	61/40/s
Lagos	88/76/t	87/75/t
Asia/Pacific		
Beijing	93/70/pc	97/68/s
Ho Chi Minh City	87/79/t	92/80/t
Hong Kong	89/81/t	90/83/t
Islamabad	103/77/s	105/79/s
Jakarta	92/78/sh	91/76/sh
Karachi	95/84/s	94/84/s
Kuala Lumpur	92/77/t	90/76/t
Manila	93/81/t	94/82/t
New Delhi	110/88/pc	86/63/s
Seoul	85/67/pc	87/71/c
Shanghai	87/66/s	90/79/t
Singapore	90/80/pc	64/55/c
Sydney	63/45/s	64/55/c
Taipei	92/76/t	90/77/t
Tokyo	78/67/pc	82/69/s
Canada		
Calgary	71/46/pc	74/48/sh
Edmonton	67/45/pc	74/49/sh
Montreal	63/53/sh	73/57/pc
Toronto	62/51/c	68/54/pc
Vancouver	65/53/s	66/51/sh
Winnipeg	73/57/r	70/49/pc
Europe		
Amsterdam	57/47/r	59/47/sh
Athens	91/72/s	92/71/s
Berlin	66/52/pc	64/47/pc
Copenhagen	64/51/c	62/51/c
Dublin	61/42/pc	58/42/pc
Frankfurt	65/46/pc	65/44/c
Geneva	72/52/s	66/51/sh
Istanbul	88/71/s	92/75/s
London	62/48/pc	62/48/pc
Madrid	69/53/t	79/54/s
Moscow	71/63/sh	74/61/t
Paris	63/46/sh	65/47/pc
Prague	70/50/c	63/48/pc
Rome	79/65/s	79/64/pc
Stockholm	55/43/r	63/45/sh
Vienna	69/58/t	66/55/c
Warsaw	65/52/r	71/49/c
Zurich	69/52/r	58/46/c
Latin America		
Bogota	67/51/sh	67/49/r
Buenos Aires	62/54/c	63/60/c
Caracas	90/77/t	90/76/t
Havana	88/77/t	86/78/t
Kingston	91/82/pc	90/82/pc
Lima	67/59/pc	67/62/pc
Rio de Janeiro	81/70/pc	82/70/pc
San Juan	93/81/pc	93/79/s
San Salvador	84/71/t	84/71/t
Santiago	59/48/c	61/47/c
Sao Paulo	83/61/pc	81/60/s
St. Thomas	90/81/pc	90/81/pc
Mexico		
Acapulco	89/75/pc	89/75/c
Cancun	90/78/t	90/80/t
Guadalajara	95/70/pc	94/66/pc
Guanajuato	89/61/pc	89/59/s
Mazatlan	88/76/pc	90/79/pc
Merida	99/79/t	97/78/t
Mexico City	84/61/c	86/58/pc
Puerto Vallarta	89/77/pc	91/78/pc
Tampico	94/81/pc	93/81/s
Veracruz	94/80/s	93/79/s
Middle East		
Baghdad	113/82/pc	111/81/pc
Beirut	83/73/s	84/73/s
Dubai	106/89/s	108/88/s
Jerusalem	85/66/s	87/67/s
Kabul	86/58/s	88/60/s
Mecca	112/83/pc	111/82/pc
Riyadh	112/88/s	114/87/pc
Tehran	99/78/pc	97/76/c
Tel Aviv	86/75/s	87/76/s

FOR THE RECORD

George Bush Intercontinental Airport through 3 p.m. Sun.

Temperature	Degrees F
High	92
Low	74
Normal high	92
Normal low	73
Record high	97 in 2022
Record low	56 in 1996
Precipitation	Inches
24-hour total	0.00
Month to date	0.71
Normal month to date	1.80
Year to date	28.87
Normal year to date	21.08
Other readings	
Top wind speed	18 mph
High barometer	29.91 in.
Low barometer	29.84 in.
High dewpoint	76°
Low dewpoint	73°
Average dewpoint	74°
High humidity	96%
Low humidity	55%

KEY TO CONDITIONS

- s - sunny

pc - partly cloudy

c - cloudy

sh - showers

t - thunderstorms

r - rain

sf - snow flurries

sn - snow

i - ice

TEXAS

	Today	Tue.
Abilene	82/68/t	83/69/t
Amarillo	74/61/t	82/61/t
Austin	93/74/t	91/72/s
Beaumont	92/74/c	91/72/t
Brownsville	96/79/t	98/79/pc
Bryan/College St.	93/76/t	91/75/pc
Corpus Christi	93/78/t	96/77/s
Dallas/Ft. Worth	82/71/t	85/73/t
El Paso	100/74/pc	104/73/s
Galveston	89/80/c	89/80/pc
Kingsville	97/77/t	100/78/s
Laredo	101/79/t	104/78/s
Longview	86/68/t	88/67/t
Lubbock	77/64/t	85/67/t
McAllen	97/78/c	101/77/s
Midland/Odessa	87/68/t	93/72/t
San Angelo	86/69/t	92/70/t
San Antonio	96/78/c	98/76/pc
San Arnelo	86/66/t	89/66/c
Texarkana	92/76/pc	96/77/pc
Victoria	88/73/t	85/70/pc
Waco		

NATIONAL

	Today	Tue.
Albany, NY	70/54/c	73/55/sh
Albuquerque	82/63/c	93/68/s
Anchorage	61/48/c	59/47/r
Atlanta	83/63/pc	85/64/pc
Baltimore	79/60/pc	77/60/pc
Billings	83/55/sh	86/58/s
Birmingham	82/61/pc	84/60/pc
Boise	86/58/s	92/58/s
Boston	74/58/c	71/60/pc
Buffalo	61/52/c	66/54/pc
Charlotte	85/69/t	86/69/pc
Charleston, SC	80/64/pc	83/61/pc
Chicago	69/52/pc	77/64/pc
Cincinnati	66/51/pc	76/55/pc

NATIONAL cont.

	Today	Tue.
Cleveland	63/50/c	70/55/s
Columbus	64/50/pc	76/55/pc
Denver	84/56/t	86/63/t
Des Moines	76/56/pc	83/68/pc
Detroit	69/49/pc	74/57/s
Duluth	69/49/pc	69/55/t
Fairbanks	72/56/sh	70/54/c
Great Falls	80/50/sh	85/53/pc
Hartford	76/56/pc	78/56/pc
Honolulu	87/75/sh	87/74/pc
Indianapolis	67/48/pc	76/58/s
Jackson, MS	84/64/t	86/60/pc
Juneau	57/47/r	64/48/r
Kansas City	79/58/pc	83/64/pc
Las Vegas	103/79/pc	108/80/s
Little Rock	86/63/pc	83/64/pc
Los Angeles	76/58/pc	74/58/pc
Memphis	83/62/s	80/62/pc
Miami	90/79/t	85/77/r
Milwaukee	64/51/s	74/62/pc
Minneapolis	75/59/pc	79/63/t
Nashville	80/55/s	80/57/pc
New Orleans	93/77/t	90/76/t
New York City	76/58/pc	76/62/pc
Oklahoma City	82/63/t	82/67/t
Orlando	94/74/t	89/72/t
Philadelphia	77/62/pc	78/60/pc
Phoenix	106/79/s	111/80/s
Pittsburgh	62/48/c	70/51/s
Portland, OR	78/56/s	73/51/s
Sacramento	95/59/s	102/62/s
St. Louis	75/57/s	82/63/s
Salt Lake City	88/63/t	92/73/s
San Diego	69/61/pc	68/62/pc
San Francisco	72/54/pc	76/54/s
Santa Fe	78/56/c	85/58/pc
Seattle	71/53/s	66/48/c
Tucson	102/68/s	107/72/s
Washington, DC	79/62/pc	78/61/pc

COASTAL FORECAST

GALVESTON BAY: Wind from the east-southeast at 6-12 knots today. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility less than 2 miles in a thundershower; otherwise, clear. **Tonight:** Wind from the south-southeast at 4-8 knots becoming east-northeast. Seas 2 feet or less. A couple of late-night showers.

MATAGORDA SHIP CHANNEL TO HIGH ISLAND OUT 20 TO 50 MILES: Wind from the southeast at 7-14 knots today. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility less than 2 miles in a thundershower; otherwise, clear. **Tonight:** Wind from the southeast at 6-12 knots. Seas 2 feet or less. Mainly clear.

GALVESTON TIDES

Highs	Feet	Lows	Feet
10:25 a.m.	1.5	1:06 a.m.	-0.3
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RIVERS, CREEKS AND BAYOUS

	Location	Flood stage	Latest stage	24-hr. chg.
Brays Bayou	South Main	54	16.73	-0.32
Brazos River	Bryan	43	27.08	-1.24
	Hempstead	50	37.10	-1.12
	Richmond	48	39.47	-1.24
Buffalo Bayou	Piney Point	50	29.60	-1.93
	Shepherd Dr.	23	3.33	-0.80
Clear Creek	Friendswood	12	2.08	-0.24
Colorado R.	Austin	29	11.44	-0.04
	Bastrop	25	3.10	+0.07
	La Grange	32	3.87	-0.14
	Columbus	34	9.97	-0.31
	Wharton	39	8.23	+0.10
	Bay City	44	3.59	+0.07
Greens Bayou	Eastex Fwy.	61	39.22	-0.08
Guadalupe R.	Hunt	12	7.61	-0.01
	Comfort	26	3.04	-0.04
	Spring Branch	36	1.55	-0.09
	New Braunfels	13	9.34	none
	Gonzales	31	10.52	-1.06
	Cuero	20	6.76	-0.68
	Victoria	21	5.53	-0.13
	Dupont	20	10.51	-0.66
Little River	Little River	30	14.96	-0.08
	Cameron	30	11.99	-0.11
Navasota R.	Easterly	19	20.59	+0.11
Neches River	Evadale	19	16.76	+0.03
Pine Island B.	Sour Lake	25	23.25	-0.92
Sabine River	Bon Wier	30	35.08	+0.53
	Deweyville	24	25.36	+0.22
	Orange	4	1.24	+0.14
	Burkeville	43	41.84	+0.47
San Bernard R.	E. Bernard	17	6.93	-0.08
E. San. Jac. R.	Cleveland	19	6.62	-0.44
W. San. Jac. R.	Conroe	116	97.59	-1.32
San Jacinto R.	Sheldon	10	2.49	+0.32
Sims Bayou	Telephone Rd.	30	2.24	+0.25
Trinity River	Goodrich	36	27.20	-0.03
	Liberty	26	27.38	+0.06
Village Creek	Kountze	20	11.66	-0.82
White Oak B.	Heights Blvd.	48	8.00	-0.20

TEXAS LAKES

	Full pool	Latest level	Release cfs
through 7 a.m. Sunday			
Canyon Dam	909	885.72	73
Conroe	201	201.09	350
Houston	41.73	42.82	N.A.
Lake Travis	681	634.84	562
Livingston	131	132.45	

TOP
WORK
PLACES
2024



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CHRONICLE



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